Austria .. Sch 15	Italy L1300	Portugal .. Esc 75
Bahrain .. Din 0.650	Japan Y500	S. Arabia .. Rls 5.00
Belgium .. BFr 35	Jordan ... Fils 500	Singapore .. S$4.10
Canada .. C$1.50	Kuwait ... Fils 500	Spain ..... Pta 95
Cyprus .. Mils 600	Lebanon .. £L6.50	Sri Lanka ... Rup 30
Denmark .. DKr 7.00	Luxembourg .. LFr 35	Sweden .. Skr 6.50
Egypt £E1.00	Malaysia .. Ms 4.25	Switzerland .. SwFr 2.0
Finland .. Fmk 5.50	Mexico .. Pes 300	Taiwan ... NT$55
France .. FFr 5.50	Morocco .. Dh 6.50	Tunisia .. Din 0.600
Germany .. DM 2.00	Netherlands .. Fl 2.25	Turkey L150
Greece .... Dr 60	Norway .. Nkr 6.00	U.A.E. ... Dh 5.00
India .... Rup 15	Philippines .. Pes 20	U.S.A. $1.50
Indonesia .. Rp 2500		

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Massey-Ferguson: a backdoor rescue, Page 12

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Violence erupts in Nigerian elections

Nigerian political leaders appealed for calm after outbreaks of violence during the second round of national elections.

Eighteen people were feared dead and buildings and vehicles were destroyed.

Voting was taking place to elect 19 state governors, following last week's election victory by President Shehu Shagari, whose Unity Party opponent Chief Obafemi Awolowo said, was the worst rigged poll in African history. **Page 2**

Lebanese clashes

Warring Druze and Christian militias were involved in fierce rocket and artillery clashes in the hills outside the Lebanese capital Beirut. **Page 2**

Angolan fighting

Angolan Government forces have killed 1,100 Unita rebels in the east and captured quantities of South African-made arms, the official news agency Angop said.

Ulster violence

Rioters threw petrol bombs and clashed with police and troops in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, near the route of the traditional Apprentice Boys' march.

Le Havre arms haul

French customs and police at Le Havre seized arms, apparently destined for the Irish Republican Army; concealed in a false tank in a lorry.

Gdansk protest

Polish police broke up a protest march in Gdansk by thousands of shipyard workers to mark the third anniversary of the strikes that gave birth to the now banned Solidarity union movement. **Page 2**

Funeral arrests

Chilean police arrested at least 20 mourners for 24 people killed in protests against the Pinochet regime. An Irish priest said he was beaten by his captors for an hour before being released without charge. **Earlier story, Page 2**

Pilgrims killed

More than 50 Hindu pilgrims were trampled to death in a stampede at a temple in India's Himalayan state Himachal Pradesh.

Soviet wind-ships

The Soviet Union says it is building wind-powered ships that will be faster than conventional ships and cheaper to run. It has started work on a 25-km (15-mile) barrier across the Bay of Finland to protect Leningrad from flooding.

Dekker double

Mary Dekker (U.S.), the 3000m champion, won the women's 1,500 metres on the final day of the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki. Other winners included Steve Cram (GB, men's 1,500m), Eamonn Coghlan (Ireland, 5,000m) and Rob de Castella (Australia, marathon). Marita Koch (E. Germany) won a third gold medal in the women's 4 x 400m relay.

Prost victory

Alain Prost (France, Renault) won the Austrian motor racing grand prix at Zeltweg.

Briefly

Pope John Paul arrived in Lourdes, France, for a two-day visit.

Sri Lanka relaxed a night curfew to allow the city of Kandy to start its annual pageant.

Oil-laden bow section of Spanish supertanker Castillo de Bellver was sunk off South Africa by explosives expert.

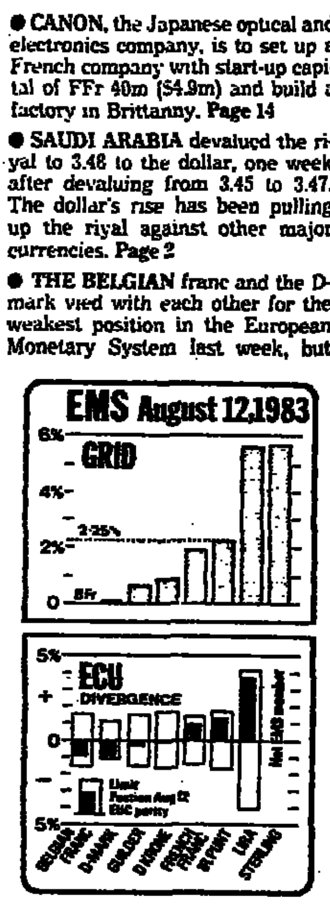
BUSINESS

Canon to set up French company

● CANON, the Japanese optical and electronics company, is to set up a French company with start-up capital of FFr 40m ($4.9m) and build a factory in Brittany. **Page 14**

● SAUDI ARABIA devalued the riyal to 3.48 to the dollar, one week after devaluing from 3.45 to 3.47. The dollar's rise has been pulling up the riyal against other major currencies. **Page 2**

● THE BELGIAN franc and the D-mark vied with each other for the weakest position in the European Monetary System last week, but



there was little strain within the EMS, as attention remained fixed firmly on the dollar.

The sharp upward movement of the dollar, taking it to record levels against several members of the system, including the Belgian franc, French franc and Italian lira, kept pressure off the system as the two potentially strong members of the EMS were equally out of favour.

Both the D-mark and Dutch guilder were around their lowest levels against the dollar for 10 years.

The chart shows the two constraints on European Monetary System exchange rates. The upper grid, based on the weakest currency in the system, defines the cross rates from which no currency (except the lira) may move more than 2¼ per cent. The lower chart gives each currency's divergence from its "central rate" against the European Currency Unit (ECU), itself a basket of European currencies.

● ISRAEL'S Cabinet failed to agree on a proposed 55bn shekel ($1bn) programme of spending cuts.

● AFRICAN central bankers concluded a six-day meeting in Dar es Salaam with a communiqué saying that the IMF had shown increasing flexibility in its approach to African states.

● BRITISH proposals to control EEC agricultural spending are likely to receive their first formal reaction from the other member-states in Brussels tomorrow. **Page 2**

● PARIS BOURSE French share prices have risen by more than 30 per cent this year. The exchange is being revitalised and will drop its two-tier trading system for a single dealing market on October 24. **Page 16**

● IMF BOARD, called out of its recess, meets in Washington today to assess Argentina's economic performance. **Page 15.**

● MAJOR UK companies are opposed to planned EEC legislation on increased workers' involvement in their business and the Confederation of British Industry is likely to press the Government to veto it. **Page 14**

COMPANIES

● R J REYNOLDS Industries, the diversified U.S. group, is considering selling Sea-Land Service, the world's largest container shipping company. **Page 16**

● RACAL of Britain has won a $12m contract to set up a national maritime communications system in Chile.

Rescheduling deal eludes Venezuela as arrears mount

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

Interest arrears on Venezuela's $33bn foreign debt have risen to an estimated $600m and international bankers now admit privately that they expect the five-month old standstill on the repayment of the $13bn of short-term foreign debt due this year to continue for several more months.

Venezuela is the fourth biggest debtor in Latin America and until recently international banks had argued that its financial problems were less pressing than those of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina.

But a combination of a sharp drop in the price of oil, which accounts for 95 per cent of Venezuela's export earnings, plus a general election due at the end of the year, has precipitated a serious deterioration in the country's financial management. As a result, interest payments on foreign debts are being missed and Venezuelan borrowers in the public and private sectors are unable to repay their short-term foreign debts as they fall due.

Sr Arturo Sosa, Venezuela's Finance Minister, met with the country's international bank advisory group representing 458 foreign banks, in New York last Friday. He repeated his request that the banks produce a set of proposals for rescheduling Venezuela's foreign debt, roughly half of which falls due in 1983 and 1984.

In June, the Venezuelans had proposed that the debts due this year and next should be rescheduled for seven to eight years with a four-year grace period before principal repayments started. The international banks rejected these proposals and said they would only present counter-proposals when the country has eliminated its interest arrears and shown that it has won approval from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on its economic adjustment programme.

In the interim period the interest arrears have risen, despite official promises that they would be eliminated by the end of last month. Meanwhile little progress has been made with the IMF. An IMF official briefed the banks in New York last week prior to Sr Sosa's arrival, but it was unclear whether the Fund had yet made a decision on the adequacy of Venezuela's economic adjustment programme.

Sr Sosa again reiterated earlier promises that the interest arrears would be eliminated shortly and outlined measures which were being introduced to facilitate this process. He also confirmed that Venezuela was still talking to the IMF and would present an economic adjustment programme that would be endorsed by the Fund. However, given the imminence of the country's elections in December, any IMF endorsed adjustments would not be introduced until after the election.

The international banks agreed with Sr Sosa that once the interest arrears are eliminated and satisfactory progress towards an IMF agreement has been demonstrated, then they will present their refinancing proposals.

International Capital Markets, Page 15

Reagan sees little hope for Contadora peace plan

By Anatole Kaletsky in Washington

THE REAGAN Administration now sees little hope for the Central American peace initiative sponsored by Mexico and the three other Latin American countries in the "Contadora Group," according to White House officials travelling with President Ronald Reagan to his meeting with President Miguel de la Madrid last night in La Paz, Mexico.

Although President Reagan, President Fidel Castro of Cuba and the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua have all publicly endorsed the centrepiece of the Contadora initiative – the withdrawal of all "external" military forces and assistance from Central America – U.S. officials now believe that Cuba is not sufficiently "serious" in its intentions to justify negotiating with the Castro regime.

Until the Cubans actually stop "supplying weapons and military advisers to Nicaragua," there will be "nothing to negotiate" with President Castro, according to a senior Administration official quoted in yesterday's Washington Post.

While Cuba and Nicaragua maintain that Cuban aid is needed to hold off U.S.-backed anti-Communist insurgents against the Sandinista Government in Managua, President Reagan is likely to tell President de la Madrid, who has supported Nicaragua with substantial economic aid, that Cuba is engaging in precisely the kind of external military intervention in Nicaraguan affairs which the Contadora initiative is supposed to halt.

U.S. officials conceded ahead of yesterday's La Paz meeting between the two presidents that the difference of views about Cuban and Nicaraguan intentions in the region would be the major source of friction between the two sides. Although economic and trade matters, including Mexico's debts and the slump in border areas of the U.S. which have relied on Mexican trade, were also expected to figure on the agenda, the talks would be dominated by Central America, officials said.

A particular problem is that President de la Madrid has invested considerable prestige in his leading role as a Central American peace-maker, which is regarded as a natural part for him to play by domestic Mexican public opinion. However, Reagan Administration officials expressed reservations over the week-

Continued on Page 14

Paris threat to Euro-Japanese car ventures

BY KENNETH GOODING IN LONDON

THE FRENCH Government is proposing to take action against vehicles like the UK state-owned BL's Triumph Acclaim car which have part-Japanese content. A growing number of these is expected on European roads.

The French have indicated they believe 40 per cent of the Triumph Acclaim is Japanese, and therefore, from 1984, 40 per cent of Acclaim sales will be counted as part of the unofficial quota imposed in France. The quota limits Japanese car sales to under 3 per cent of the market.

Austin Rover expects to sell about 5,000 Acclaims in France this year. Under the French Government's proposed new arrangements, if this was repeated next year, the number of cars imported to France from Japan would have to be cut by 2,000.

The action is seen in Britain as being not directly aimed at BL or the Acclaim, but as another attempt by the French to discourage Japanese investment in Europe.

The timing could have something to do with the pressure the UK Government is putting on Nissan, the Datsun car group, to make up its mind about building a car assembly plant in Britain.

However, the list of part-Japanese vehicles expected in Europe is already considerable.

Last week, a joint venture car developed by Alfa Romeo of Italy and Nissan had its European launch in Britain, where it is sold as the Datsun Cherry Europe. The Alfa Romeo version, in which virtually only the badge is changed, will be called the Arna. Alfa Romeo says the car is 80 per cent Italian by ex-factory value. Nissan is supplying mainly body panels from Japan.

Nissan has also begun producing a four-wheel-drive vehicle, called the Patrol, at Motor Iberica in Spain a company in which the Japanese group now has a majority shareholding and management control. Iberica will also produce light vans from the Nissan designs. Spanish vehicles already have preferential treatment in the EEC and will count as Common Market products when Spain joins the Community.

General Motors recently made clear that it intends to use its Bedford subsidiary in Britain to build light commercial vehicles, derived from Japanese ones and with Japanese content. The commercials will be based on vehicles already sold by Isuzu, the Japanese group in which GM, the world's largest motor manufacturer, has a 34 per cent shareholding, and Suzuki, where GM has a 5 per cent stake.

GM expects to do much better in those markets – such as France and Italy – where built-up Japanese ve-

Continued on Page 14

Western nations seek ocean mining changes

BY DAVID TONGE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

THE LEADING West European powers are due today to start a major effort to protect companies hoping to mine the deep sea bed from the worst effects of a treaty already signed by 121 countries.

As the three-week conference on implementing the Law of the Sea treaty agreed last year prepares to start this morning in Jamaica Britain, Italy and West Germany are hoping to persuade supporters of the treaty of the need for major compromises.

Together with Belgium, they warn that in the absence of these compromises, their governments are likely to follow the Reagan Administration in refusing to sign the treaty. This would virtually destroy the treaty's credibility, they argue.

These Western countries are bracing themselves for clashes over two crucial issues. The first is whether they will be allowed properly to participate in the work of the conference. The Western countries which have not signed the treaty argue that it is their right to be involved in everything except decision making.

They also say that this involvement is essential if they are to develop any trust in the gargantuan new international bureaucracy which the conference is developing.

But some Third World countries wish to restrict full participation to signatories of the treaty and are keen to "punish" others.

The second key issue is the protection to be accorded to countries and companies already involved in deep sea mining: the main Western consortia have so far spent around $0.5bn on research into raising and processing the nodules of minerals that lie on the sea-bed.

The chief problem is how to reconcile and ratify overlapping claims to sections of the seabed. Here the four main U.S. groups – headed by Inco, Kennecott Copper, Lockheed, and U.S. Steel – managed in May to reach a private agreement with Afernod, the French group, to eliminate overlaps. These groups are now seeking to reach similar agreements with the Japanese group.

But this allocation of an average of 150,000 sq km to each group was done under national legislation and not under the treaty. France is planning to propose a mechanism for overcoming this problem, but the Soviet Union and India – both potential mining countries – and many Third World countries are expected to challenge the Western share-out.

France and Japan have both signed the treaty but join the main West European countries in pressing for changes to improve the mineral regime. While the Reagan Administration is keeping its distance from the treaty process, other Western countries are pinning their hopes on establishing operating rules for the international bureaucracy which will undermine some of the more objectionable provisions of the treaty itself.

The major mining companies particularly criticise the treaty for establishing production ceilings; for obliging then to hand their secrets to others; and for failing to assure them of security of operations.

The treaty needs 60 ratifications to come into force. So far it has been ratified by four countries.

Negotiated over eight years it is praised by its many supporters for setting out clear rules to cover navigation, off-shore resources, fishing, pollution, research and territorial disputes. Critics of the treaty have mainly been concerned only with its section dealing with the hard mineral resources first found on the ocean floor a century ago.

The present state of the metals market means that few consortia are spending any funds on research and development in this field and mining the ocean is unlikely this century.

UK 'set for 2.5% growth'

BY MAX WILKINSON, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

BRITAIN'S economy is set to grow by 2.5 per cent this year, according to an FT average of the predictions from 17 forecasters. This figure closely matches the UK Treasury's latest internal estimate which is rather more optimistic than the 2 per cent growth forecast it published at the time of the budget.

The FT "consensus forecast," suggests that the annual inflation rate will rise from just over 4 per cent in July to around 5.75 per cent by the end of the year, and will creep up to a little over 6 per cent by the end of 1984.

All the forecasts were compiled before the issue of the latest industrial production figures – for June. These show a sharp downturn of industrial and manufacturing output for the month, which had not been generally expected.

It is unlikely, however, that the forecasters would make radical changes to their predictions on the basis of only one month's figures.

Recent indications suggest that consumer spending remains buoyant, that industrial confidence has improved from the very low levels of recent years and that exports will show at least a small improvement on last year's level.

The faster-than-expected recovery of the U.S. economy and the rise of the dollar should give UK exporters some chance of improving sales across the Atlantic.

On the other hand, sterling is now generally rather high against other currencies particularly the D-mark.

Most forecasters are expecting the UK's current account of the balance of payments to remain in surplus this year with a consensus figure of about £1bn ($1.48bn). This compares with the Treasury's budget estimate of £1.5bn.

Next year, however, most forecasters expect the current account surplus to dwindle or even to swing into a small deficit. In March, the Treasury was predicting a surplus of £2bn for 1984.

Most of the forecasters have become more optimistic about UK inflation and output since the turn of the year, when the last comparable FT table, was published.

The consensus then was that output would grow by about 1.75 per cent this year, with an inflation rate of 6.3 per cent by the end of the year.

Since then, the outlook for world economy – particularly for the U.S. – has improved and the continued downward pressure on inflation has given more room than expected for consumer demand to be sustained.

Details, Page 4

French troops close on Chad war zone

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

FRANCE has drawn closer to full-scale military involvement in the Chad conflict by moving detachments of paratroops towards the northern war zone held by Libyan-backed rebels.

The move, announced at the weekend by M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, is designed to bolster the French Government's pledge to defend the Chad capital, N'Djamena, against any extension of attacks by rebel forces.

On the diplomatic front, meanwhile, M Guy Penne, President François Mitterrand's adviser on African affairs, flew to N'Djamena for talks with Chad's President Hissene Habre yesterday. Part of his mission was undoubtedly to improve understanding between the two capitals.

M Penne himself was called a "poor imbecile" by President Habre in an interview with journalists earlier this month, in which the Chad leader criticised "pro-Libyan lobbies" in the Mitterrand Government for blocking more military aid for his regime.

Troops opposing President Habre have started to move south after last week's capture – with the aid of Libyan tanks and aeroplanes – of the key desert town of Faya-Largeau, about 500 miles north of N'Djamena.

As part of the build-up of French soldiers in Chad which started last

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CONTENTS

OVERSEAS NEWS

Police break up Gdansk protest

By Leslie Colitt in Gdansk

A MARCH to the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk by thousands of supporters of the banned Solidarity trade union was broken up yesterday by platoons of riot police. It was the first such demonstration since martial law was lifted on July 22.

After attending a Mass in St Brigyda church on the third anniversary of the Gdansk shipyard strike, the marchers surged toward the Three Crosses monument built by Solidarity in 1980 outside the shipyard. Father Henryk Jankowski had told a congregation of 5,000 people not to fear but to be "courageous." The marchers were dispersed by truckloads of riot police blocking the street to the Solidarity monument.

The union supporters had previously shouted their backing for their leader, Mr Lech Walesa, *who took part in the* Mass but not in the demonstration. They chanted Mr Walesa's name and that of Solidarity and refused to allow him to drive some, until a path had been cleared.

Emotions had been building *up in* Gdansk since a memorial Mass on Saturday evening in St Brigyd's, the shipyard parish church, to mark the start of the August, 1980, strike.

A young pro-Solidarity priest from Warsaw, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, *told* parishioners that "we are living in a lie and that lie must be protested against." He recalled that the late Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski had said that man's worst trait "is to be afraid." Father Popieluszko *said* the "*strategy of the Godless is to* force us to remain silent." This was seen as a barbed criticism of the Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp.

Earlier on Saturday, the Governor of Gdansk region met with Bishop Lech Karczmarek to complain about Father Jankowski, who is a close friend of Mr Walesa.

Leaflets were circulated in Gdansk, signed by an underground Solidarity commission, which warned the authorities of a work slowdown after August 23 if they do not begin negotiations with the labour leader.

Druze threat to keep airport shut

BY NORA BOUTANY IN BEIRUT AND MICHAEL FIELD IN LONDON

MR WALID JUMBLATT, the leader of the Druze community in Lebanon, said at the weekend that his militia would keep Beirut airport closed until the Lebanese army ceased what he claimed were military operations against his own positions in the Chouf mountains. The airport has been closed since Wednesday, when it was shelled by Druze artillery of Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party.

The pretext for the shelling was the presence at the airport of Lebanese army artillery *which had fired rounds against* the Druze positions in the hills. There was no firing at or around the airport on Saturday but it is felt in Beirut that the threat *from the Druze guns will* be enough to keep the airport closed for some time.

Mr Jumblatt is anxious to persuade the Lebanese Government not to move its own army into his area when the Israelis pull out. This they intend to do *as part of a general shortening* and strengthening of their lines in Lebanon.

The Druze leader's stand is supported by the Syrian Government, which does not want to see the authority of the Lebanese State strengthened and is concerned to avoid the de facto emergence of a partial Lebanese-Israeli peace agreement.

Mr Jumblatt is a key figure *in the Syrian-backed opposition* National Salvation Front. He has run his anti-Lebanese Government campaign from Damascus and Syrian held areas in Lebanon.

In an interview conducted in Damascus and published in the *Left-wing Lebanese daily, As* Safir, Mr Jumblatt repeated a series of 10 demands which he made of the Lebanese Government last week. Apart from the cessation of military operations against him and the conclusion of a formal agreement between him and the Government on the presence of the army and Christian milita in his areas, the most important of these *demands are for the resignations* of the Lebanese Prime Minister and the Chief of Police.

To emphasise his intransigence, Mr Jumblatt has said that if they have anything to say to him, they will have to come to his residence in Moukhtara, a village in the centre of his tribal area well inside Israeli occupied territory.

The crisis with the Druze and the closure of the airport were discussed yesterday by Mr Elie Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, and Mr Robert McFarlane, the American special envoy in the Middle East, who was visiting Beirut.

Thousands demand free Pakistan poll

By Our Foreign Staff

OPPONENTS of Pakistan's martial law clashed in Karachi yesterday with supporters of the regime of President Zia ul-Haq, as underground political *leaders* emerged to demand free elections.

About 20,000 people turned out for the protest on Pakistan's 36th anniversary of independence and police fired tear gas after some of the estimated 10,000 Government supporters began throwing stones.

Four people were injured, two leaders of the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), Mr Khwaja Khairuddin, the general secretary, and Mr Abid Zuberi, the Movement's acting president, were arrested for breaking the martial law ban on political rallies.

The clashes came two days after President Zia announced plans to hold elections in 18 months' time and then lift martial law. However, in a second hastily convened press conference yesterday, the President played down the protests and refused to be drawn on whether he would run for office under a new political arrangement. Plans for new elections did not make clear how the President would be elected.

Limited response to Chad fighting puts France in a dilemma

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Francois Mitterrand is treading an increasingly fragile domestic political tightrope in building up France's military presence in Chad in support of the beleagured regime of M Hissène Habré.

Reaction in France to the sending of French troops, ostensibly as "instructors," to the central African country has been fairly muted so far. In spite of strong private doubts on the Left about an apparent resurgence of France's gendarme role in Africa, the Socialist Party put out a communiqué towards the end of last week approving "without reserve" Government policy over Chad.

The opposition Right has been torn between endorsing M Mitterrand's military response as a continuation of the previous Giscard Administration's policies, and condemning it for not being sufficiently robust to *stop Libyan-backed rebels from* capturing the key northern town of Faya-Largeau last week.

Because of this indecision on the Right—and because there is probably a large consensus in France that Libyan bombing raids against civilian targets could not be allowed to go without a tough response from Chad's former colonial power—M Mitterrand has not as yet lost political capital over the affair.

But the mood could change if the roughly 500 French troops now believed to be in Chad, start getting caught up in fighting.

The French Defence Ministry is still sticking to the line that the troops are in Chad to train Government forces under a bilateral pact which rules out direct participation in "war operations."

Second Saudi devaluation in week

By Michael Field

THE Saudi Arabian riyal was *devalued yesterday for the* second time in a week. The move in the parity of the currency, which is normally linked to the dollar, was a small one, from SR 3.47 to SR 3.48.

The Saudi authorities, who are always most reluctant to change established economic practices, have tried to keep the riyal's exchange rate as stable as possible during the last decade. They have reasoned that devaluations tend to be inflationary while revaluations damage the competitiveness of the kingdom's fledgling industries. Recently, they have also been concerned that an appreciating riyal will encourage private sector imports.

The small devaluations of the last week, amounting to about 1 per cent, suggest that Saudi government is moving back to the policy it adopted in the late 1970s.

Israeli Cabinet fails to agree defence cuts

The Israeli Cabinet failed to reach agreement yesterday on a proposed 55bn shekel £600m package of defence and other public spending cuts, Aur Tel Aviv Correspondent writes.

After five hours of debate, the Cabinet postponed decisions on the austerity measures until *today.* Several Ministers are opposing Treasury calls for defence cuts, arguing they could weaken Israel's long-term military capability.

More killed in Santiago clashes

BY MARY HELEN SPOONER IN SANTIAGO

AT LEAST 24 people were killed during two nights of disturbances following Thursday's fourth nationwide protest *against Gen. Augusto Pinochet's* military regime.

Several working-class neighbourhoods in Santiago were the scene of clashes with police as residents built barricades and hurled stones and debris at police and military patrols. Most of the victims were killed by police gunfire.

Sr Alfonso Marquez de la Plata, the regime's spokesman, blamed the violence on "professional agitators" and warned would-be demonstrators that they were no match for the *military.*

The capital's low income areas have become flashpoints of unrest during the days of *protest,* organised by Chile's opposition and labour groups. Although the protest organisers have urged the Chileans to *express their discontent peacefully,* disturbances have erupted in poorer areas of Santiago in the aftermath of every day of protest since May.

Unemployment in these neighbourhoods hovers around 60 per cent, with many of those who do have jobs working on *Government projects for which* they are paid less than the minimum wage.

The disturbances in the working class neighbourhoods have created a momentum of unrest which Chilean authorities are finding difficult to quell. On Saturday, funerals were held for several victims of the violence, with small anti-government demonstrations.

Reaction likely on farm price plan

BY PAUL CHEESERIGHT IN BRUSSELS

THE FIRST formal reaction to detailed British proposals to control EEC agricultural spend*ing is likely* tomorrow when officials from the Ten meet in Brussels.

They are accompanied by a plan to set upper limits on the net contribution of any member state to the annual EEC budget.

The Brussels meeting starts a new phase in the attempt, as EEC leaders put it at their Stuttgart summit in June, "to take broad action to ensure the relaunch of the European Community."

The immediate aim will be to *prepare for a special ministerial* meeting at the end of the month on the budget question, and within that, the level of agricultural spending.

The British schemes define ideas already put into general circulation by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the *Foreign Secretary.* They are advanced against the background of concern throughout the EEC about:

● The danger of the EEC running out of money to meet commitments;

● A *sharp rise in agricultural* spending which accounts for two-thirds of the budget;

● The damaging political confrontations between the UK and the Nine on the net British budgetary contribution.

The UK wants EEC laws laid down which specify the maximum growth in agricultural spending as a proportion of the growth in the EEC's own resources. It wants each year a top figure specified for agricultural spending within which the *Farm Ministers would fit their* product buying price decision.

For net contributors to the EEC budget, like the UK and West Germany, the Government is suggesting a limit based on a percentage of gross domestic *product. If contributions should* pass this limit then the excess would be eliminated by reducing the amount paid to the EEC from VAT receipts.

Diplomats see the French view as crucial. They expect soon a proposal from Paris which would specify limits on both the contributions and receipts any member state makes to or has from the EEC.

TULF leader in talks with Gandhi

Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil United Liberation Front *(TULF), flew to India yesterday* for discussions with Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, following the communal riots on the island, K. K. Sharma writes from New Delhi.

Any mediation efforts by the Indian Government will not be *smooth since Mr Amirthalingam* arrived in an angry mood and declared himself opposed to negotiations with President Junius Jayawardene of Sri Lanka. He used much of his first meeting with Mrs Gandhi to describe to her the "atrocities," against the Tamils

Craxi plan backed

Sig Bettino Craxi, the Italian Socialist Prime Minister, began a short holiday in Tunisia after securing parliamentary support for his strategy to tackle Italy's economic and social problems, Reuter reports from Rome. He will probably return to Rome later this week.

Violence mars second round of Nigeria elections

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN LAGOS

POLITICAL leaders in Nigeria appealed for calm yesterday *after outbreaks of violence in* several western cities marred the second round of national elections, leaving as many as 18 feared dead, with a number of vehicles and buildings destroyed by angry crowds.

The violence occurred as Nigerian voters turned out to elect 19 state governors, following last week's victory in the Presidential election by President Shehu Shagari, of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN).

It came as his principal rival, *Chief Obafemi Awolowo, of the* Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), broke his silence on Saturday to condemn the poll as "the worst rigged in the history of Africa." He said that he would not personally challenge the result in the courts, but added ambiguously that "the people will decide for themselves what to do, and not me."

The sudden increase in tension was largely confined to the west of the country, which is the stronghold of Chief Awolowo's Yoruba supporters. It appeared to have been brought under control yesterday, with a curfew ordered in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State.

The attacks appeared to be carried out by crowds of vigilantes on NPN sympathisers whom they suspected of attempting to falsify election returns.

Senator Uba Ahmed, national secretary of the NPN, said he believed the incidents were isolated, and the violence was being "adequately and effectively contained, unlike what it used to be in the past"—a reference to the widespread rioting which marred Nigerian elections in 1964 and 1965.

The first gubernational result declared yesterday was for Lagos state where the UPN *incumbent.* Mr Alhaji Lateef Jakande, was re-elected with more than 90 per cent of the vote,

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Marketing break into Europe for Sperry

By Raymond Snoddy

SPERRY, THE U.S. computer company has signed a marketing deal with Ericsson Information Systems of Sweden. It will market the new Ericsson branch automation system for financial institutions.

The equipment will be marketed under Sperry's name in most European countries outside Scandinavia, and in Canada, South Africa, and South East Asia.

The agreement, signed in London, is considered by Sperry to be one of the most significant joint ventures it has undertaken in Europe, filling a gap in its range of processing systems for banks and finance houses.

Manila trade curb

THE PHILIPPINES central bank has announced restrictions on the carriage of imports by Government agencies. The aim is to cut the flow of foreign exchange on freight and insurance costs, Leo Gonzaga reports from Manila.

Only imports carried by Philippino airlines or vessels will normally be permitted on an fob basis.

Christian Tyler, World Trade Editor, on prospects for frozen profits

Doubts over lifting of Argentine sanctions

BRITISH COMPANIES with business in Argentina will today *be trying to discover the true* extent of Argentina's relaxation of commercial sanctions imposed during the Falklands war.

When hostilities broke out in April, 1982 (formally, they are not yet ended), UK companies in Argentina were forbidden to remit profits and dividends or to dispose of their local assets. At the same time supervisors, variously described as *veedores* and *interventores*, were put in their offices to make sure the ban was obeyed.

The two belligerents banned each other's imports. But whereas the British ban has been total—at least in theory—Argentina's has been only partial. Britain is unlikely to lift its restriction until Argentina officially declares the Falklands war over.

Even before the war Argentina had introduced a system of exchange controls affecting all foreign companies. Remittances destined for overseas parent companies had to be invested in U.S. dollar-*denominated external bonds* called Bonex. The bonds pay a market rate of interest and are cashable for dollars with the Central Bank of Argentina up to five years.

Companies who wanted their money immediately could, however, sell Bonex at a discount on the secondary market in New York. From April last year, *British companies were forbidden* to sell their bonds.

This and other measures against Britain, taken under a law called Decree 22591, were eased by a further decree in June this year giving the central bank discretion as to whose funds could be repatriated.

Among those to benefit has been Lloyds Bank International, whose Buenos Aires subsidiary, the Bank of London and South

> ' It is not clear how much has been frozen, but $10m has been mentioned '

America is the biggest UK bank in the country with nearly 40 branches and an investment of some £30m. The bank is not disclosing how much of Bonex it has sold.

The rest of the British busi*ness comunity in the Argentine* capital were told last week that they could now repatriate their 1982 profits. But the original decree, remains and the supervisors are still visiting offices to look through the books.

It is not clear yet how much money has been frozen but a figure of $10m has been *mentioned. Big companies do* not normally publish the value of their Argentine profits or dividends and now seem doubly cautious for fear of upsetting the authorities.

But on Friday British American Tobacco confirmed that it had been given permission to cash in Bonex bonds accumulated by Nobleza-Piccardo, the cigarette factory at San Martin in which it has a 70 per cent stake and which claims 58 per cent of the Argentine market. BAT says its Argentine subsidiary accounts for about 1 per cent of group profits.

A spokesman was enthusiastic about the latest move and said the company had co-operated fully with the sanctions. "We think they have been extraordinarily reasonable and this latest development is a positive undertaking on their part to improve relationships," he said. He described the official put in to supervise the factory as "a most delightful man who has *caused us no problem at all.*"

Imperial Chemical Industries has a wholly-owned and long-established subsidiary, Duperial, with a turnover of some £80m. It manufactures and supplies agrochemicals and dyestuffs, plastics and pharmaceuticals. ICI *expects* to be able now to declare a dividend for Duperial in December which would prob*ably include the 1982 remittance* which was not made.

Shell Transport is awaiting payments of dividends and other fees from its subsidiary Shell Compagnia Argentina de Petroleo SA, a £66m investment with turnover of £80m. Operations include a refinery producing 115,000 barrels a day, a distribution network and a few oil tankers. Shell would reveal only that the biggest of the remittances due is under $1m.

> ' UK interest in the Argentine market was waning even before the conflict '

Another multinational with Argentine interests is Unilever. The group appears to have been affected by the sanctions even though the subsidiary is vested in the Dutch side of the parent company. Lever y Asociados SA *manufactures* soap, detergents, margarine and ice cream in Buenos Aires with a sales value last year of £38m. The company is said to be profitable.

Many other UK companies, from GKN to sheep farmers, *will have been affected to some* extent. But British interest in the Argentine market was waning even before the Falklands conflict because of the country's domestic economic crisis and external payments problem.

For example, Perkins, the diesel eengine company, has not received royalties since late *1981 from its licensee Perkins* Argentina. (Despite the name, the UK company has no shareholding.)

Like other Argentine businesses, Perkins Argentina was forced to seek court protection from its creditors even before the *South Atlantic* war and the turmoil caused by rupture of links with the UK. Perkins in the UK had also stopped shipping specialised castings and forgings to its licensee several months before the conflict.

For some British companies, therefore, *the latest* improvement in commercial relations may prove to be more of technical than financial interest.

Today the International Monetary Fund holds a special board meeting to review Britain's temporary refusal to *join in a $1.5bn rescue loan to* Argentina. British companies and the British Government may have welcomed the easing of sanctions. But until the laws themselves and the supervisors on the ground are removed they can argue that discrimination continues.

Shipping: tonnage up slightly

By Andrew Fisher

THE IMPROVED tanker rates of the past few months and the consequent shedding of some of the market's pervasive gloom have led a number of owners to take their ships out of lay up. The result, as E. A. Gibson noted in its weekly report, has *been a rise in tonnage available* for business.

Available tonnage in the Gulf up to the end of August now amounts to some 38 VLCCs and ULCCs (very large and ultra large crude carriers), or more than 9m deadweight tons.

Despite the removal of some large tankers from lay-up, Galbraith said there were still justifiable grounds for owners to expect a reasonably active last quarter this year.

It cited indications that the Opec countries may lift their production ceiling as a result of improved demand for oil rather than raising prices.

On the sale and purchase market, demand for second-hand tankers was active during the height of the holiday season, *reflecting* the improved out*look.*

Galbraith reported the sale of the Esso Hong Kong, a 29,700 dwt nine-year old products tanker to Greek buyers in New York for $8.2m. The Japanese-built ship was sold by tender, with the next two offers well below *this.*

Pertamina to supply South Korea with LNG

By Chris Sherwell in Singapore

INDONESIA and South Korea have concluded a 20-year contract under which Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil corporation, will supply Kepco, the *South Korean electric power* company, with 2m tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) a year.

The contract, which calls for first deliveries in 1986, is expected to be worth between $500m and $600m to Indonesia under the proposed pricing scheme. Details of the scheme, agreed after talks that lasted 31 months, have been kept secret, but the LNG price is likely to be linked to the average export price of Indonesian crude oil.

Despite economic difficulties stemming from the weak oil market and the world recession, Indonesia remains determined to develop its natural gas resources. Exports of LNG, which began in 1977, earned the country $2.9bn in 1982, making it the country's second largest export commodity after crude oil.

It is thought that differences over transporting the LNG were the main obstacle to earlier agreement. Originally South Korea wanted the gas transported in ships purchased from its own yards. Pertamina is now expected to arrange for the charter of two LNG tankers.

The gas itself will come from Indonesia's Arun field in North Sumatra. Minimum reserves in this field are estimated at 15 to 17 trillion (million million) cubic feet. Indonesia also has reserves in Badak in East Kalimantan (six to nine trillion cubic feet) and offshore near the Natuna Island in the South China Sea.

● Provisional figures from the Bank of Indonesia for oil export earnings in the first quarter of this year confirm the sharp impact of the weak oil market on Indonesia. The figures, released last week, show a fall to $2.3bn, from $3.2bn in the same period last year. Output for the quarter is believed to have been below Indonesia's quota of 1.3m b/d, set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

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Call for Euro-strategy on cars

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN car manufacturers have been unable to protect themselves agains the Japanese. in spite of barriers in most of the major markets, because their efforts have been un-co-ordinated, according to a *study by Automotive Industry* Data.

Thanks to a systematic approach, Japanese vehicle exports grew from 2m in 1973 to 6m in 1981. Aid suggests that Europe provides a prime example of their success.

Ironically, however, it is the current boom in the UK car market (where under the terms of the agreement between the Japanese and British motor industries the Japanese penetration is limited to 11 per cent) which has enabled Japan to maintain its overall export levels to Europe. The UK is absorbing 22 per cent of its exports.

But the AID study also insists that "the net result of this back-door attack is that the Japanese are snapping up a market share in countries that are traditional export markets for the major European producers but which should be considered part of the home market if a proper European policy existed."

The study recognises that markets all over the world are imposing restrictions on the Japanese makers and this *forced vehicle exports back to* 5.59m last year.

So "there is little doubt that for many of the Japanese manufacturers to maintain their overall size and strength they will have to look outside Japan for some of their production in *future.*

On overseas production deals the study states that Nissan likes to take control of overseas ventures.

So "should Nissan decide to go ahead with production in the UK, it will undoubtedly ignore idle production facilities at Talbot Scotland or Rover Solihull. Nissan hopes by these actions to avoid many of the problems associated with strong union areas and to have a better chance of establishing Japanese working practices.

Of Toyota, Japan's largest vehicle group, the study maintains that, although the com*pany has been the most vocal* in advocating a reversal of the trend towards overseas investments and production, "Toyota is just as capable of expanding overseas as is Nissan or Honda."

"Japanese Vehicle Exports — Strategies and Intentions" from AID, 34, St John Street, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6PB. £25 or $40.

World Economic Indicators

TRADE STATISTICS

		July '83	June '83	May '83	July '82
Japan $bn	Exports	11.95	12.07	11.69	11.30
	Imports	9.64	10.99	9.51	9.80
	Balance	+2.31	+1.08	+2.18	+1.50
		June '83	May '83	Apr. '83	June '82
U.S. $bn	Exports	17.008	15.566	16.074	18.823
	Imports	21.024	21.514	19.771	21.187
	Balance	−4.016	−5.948	−3.697	−2.364
UK £bn	Exports	5.110	4.771	4.804	4.553
	Imports	4.987	5.323	5.164	4.473
	Balance	+0.123	−0.552	−0.360	+0.080
W. Germany DMbn	Exports	36.840	35.497	33.807	30.730
	Imports	32.923	31.869	31.132	35.640
	Balance	+3.917	+3.628	+2.675	+4.910
France FFrbn	Exports	60.27	57.52	56.91	50.52
	Imports	63.97	65.18	58.45	63.34
	Balance	−3.70	−7.66	−1.45	−12.82
		Apr. '83	Mar. '83	Feb. '83	Apr. '82
Italy Lbn	Exports	9,006	8,496	8,959	8,561
	Imports	10,718	8,716	8,080	9,761
	Balance	−1,713	−220	−879	−1,054
Belgium BFrbn	Exports	209.27	201.41	190.73	192.38
	Imports	210.69	234.98	221.33	224.95
	Balance	−1.42	−33.57	−30.60	−32.57

UK NEWS

Port employers braced for clash over jobs

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

FEARS ARE growing in the ports industry that a long-dreaded battle with Britain's 14,000 registered dockers over their unique employment rights will take place in the next few months if the financial collapse of the Port of London Authority (PLA) is not averted.

Failure to end the PLA's losses could lead to closure of Tilbury docks, and compulsory redundancies among the authority's 1,743 dockers. This would provoke a national strike by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Dockers have avoided compulsory redundancy, partly because of the statutory right of dockers' unions to control the size of workforces jointly with employers under the national dock labour scheme.

The most radical solution would involve transfer of the PLA's business and dockers to its tenants, the biggest being Tilbury Container Services, West Africa Terminal, Seaboard Pioneer Terminal and Svenska Cellulosa. Talks have started, but an acceptable outcome to all sides is far from certain.

This appears the only rescue plan apart from hoping for new trade. The PLA is trying desperately to win new business to replace the more than 30 per cent of traffic lost indefinitely by this year's eight-week dockers' pay strike.

The PLA hoped for a £2m to £3m profit in 1983, but is now crippled by the £6m strike cost, lost trade, and the £2m-a-year cost of paying 250 surplus dockers who did not accept redundancy in a recent national voluntary severance scheme.

The Government refuses to meet further operating losses. Ministers do not wish to provoke a national strike, but want neither to reverse their insistence that the PLA must become viable, nor to fund losses caused by industrial disruption.

The authority is buying time – probably a few months – by selling assets to raise cash. It is negotiating the sale of its disused inner-London Royal Victoria Dock, worth about £8m, to the London Docklands Development Corporation.

The PLA wants the National Association of Port Employers (Nape) to ask the TGWU to drop opposition to voluntary redundancy. It is joined by Liverpool employers, who failed to get 209 of their 325 redundancies in the temporary national scheme this year which offered up to £22,500 a head. Top payments are now only £16,000, but £22,500 may be offered again this autumn.

Nape will soon begin a consultation exercise with the TGWU on the industry's future. Its chairman, Mr Donald Stringer, has hinted at reform of the National Dock labour scheme.

No details have emerged. It is, however, unlikely to differ much from previous Nape proposals

Hattersley to woo unions with pay call

By Our Political Editor

THE PROPAGANDA battle for the leadership and deputy leadership of the Labour Party will break out of the mid-August political doldrums today with a speech by Mr Roy Hattersley calling for a statutory minimum wage backed by an incomes policy.

Mr Hattersley's intervention, in a speech in Leicester, is intended to win the support of unions with large numbers of low-paid members, notably those in the public sector and the shopworkers, Mr Hattersley has always backed an incomes policy as a means of protecting the low paid whom, he believes, suffer under free collective bargaining.

Several unions are about to consult their members about how to cast their block votes in the electoral college at Labour's conference in Brighton in early October.

Most Labour MPs expect that Mr Neil Kinnock will win the party leadership comfortably. While the Hattersley camp is conceding nothing, their tactic is primarily to push up their candidate's vote to a sufficiently high level to provide the momentum necessary to see off Mr Michael Meacher, the hard-left candidate, in the contest for the deputy leadership.

Mr Hattersley's appeal for a statutory minimum wage may appeal to unions with low paid workers but his call for a statutory incomes policy is opposed by powerful unions such as the Transport and General Workers.

Dole areas mark the political divide

BY PETER RIDDELL

BRITAIN remains sharply divided politically along the lines of high and low unemployment, despite the large gains by the Conservative Party at the June general election.

One hundred and forty-seven Labour MPs (70 per cent of the party total in the House of Commons) are found in the 200 parliamentary constituencies with the highest unemployment. In contrast, only 44 Conservative MPs (11 per cent of their total) have consitutencies in this group.

At the other end of the scale there are only four Labour MPs in the 233 seats with the lowest unemployment, but 221 Conservative members.

These results are significant for the impact of unemployment on politics. They underline the division between Labour's declining base in the traditional manufacturing areas of the North, the West Midlands, Scotland and Wales, with high unemployment, and the Tories' strength in the suburbs, small and new towns and rural areas, with expanding business and lower than average unemployment.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE PARTIES

Ranking of constituencies by unemployment	Per cent rate †	Conservative	Labour	Others
Top 100	36.4 to 17.4	10 (6)	86 (92)	4 (2)
101 to 200	17.4 to 13.6	34 (28)	61 (70)	5 (2)
201 to 300	13.6 to 11.1	57 (46)	40 (52)	3 (2)
301 to 400	11.1 to 9.0	75 (64)	18 (32)	7 (4)
401 to 500	9.0 to 7.2	91 (87)	4 (11)	5 (2)
501 to 600	7.2 to 5.3	98 (96)	0 (3)	2 (1)
601 to 633	5.2 to 3.8	32 (33)	0 (0)	1 (0)

* Party divisions reflect June 9, election results; figures in parentheses show division in 1979 based on estimates of results in new constituency boundaries by BBC/ITN panel.
† Unemployed men as percentage of economically active population, based on April 1981 census, Great Britain (excluding Northern Ireland).

The figures are drawn from the 1981 census of population which allows a constituency-by-constituency analysis. This is unlike the monthly Department of Employment figures which are generally for larger areas. The Office of Population and Census has re-worked the figures for the new constituency boundaries which came into operation at the last election, while the ranking of constituencies by unemployment though not the party breakdown has been done by the House of Commons Library.

The detailed rankings may have changed slightly since the census because of variations in the growth of unemployment, but the broad conclusions still apply.

The figures refute the view that unemployment was not an influence on the 1983 election. Labour held on to a much higher proportion of its seats in areas of high unemployment than those with average or low unemployment.

A more detailed breakdown suggests that where the Conservatives did win seats with high unemployment, such as Corby and Nottingham North, they were generally outside the especially depressed cities and were where new industries are beginning to be established.

In general, the Conservative seats with the highest unemployment are also those with the smallest majorities.

Some of the Labour seats with the lowest unemployment, like Bolsover and Ashfield are, paradoxically, among the party's safest but this is because they are dominated by coal mining where employment has been maintained. The seats with the highest unemployment, however, are all Labour inner city strongholds.

The party divisions between high and low unemployment are also matched by the North/South split. The result is that there remain comparatively few Tory MPs with direct constituency experience of high unemployment.

The seats of the other parties are spread evenly throughout the unemployment range, with the nationalists generallly in seats with higher than average numbers out of work.

Rolls-Royce reshapes its management team

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

SIR WILLIAM DUNCAN, the chairman and chief executive of Rolls-Royce, has introduced substantial changes in the duties of the top management of the state-owned aero-engine maker in an attempt to gear the company for a more profitable future.

Last year Rolls-Royce incurred a net loss of £134m after research and development charges, interest payments and what the company called "restructuring costs" covering payments for workers made redundant.

Under the new top management plan five groups are being set up to cover manufacturing, engineering, and the military, civil and industrial and marine aspects of the business. Each will be led by an executive board director.

The civil engine business, including repair and overall work, will be led by Mr Ralph Robins, previously sales director for the company.

Mr Peter Molony becomes director of the military engine group.

Mr Trevor Salt, manufacturing director, becomes director of the industrial and marine business, and also responsible for supplies – purchasing and manufacturing all the company's hardware, raw materials and services.

Mr Alan Newton, at present engineering director, will head a new corporate engineering group, responsible for the company's basic technology, all advanced engineering and design, and overall professional engineering standards.

The military engine, civil engine, and industrial and marine groups, will all be profit centres in their own right. Each will be responsible for defining any new products likely to be needed in the future, and for their ultimate assembly and marketing. Mr Jim Rigg will continue as finance director and will also remain responsible for the company's nuclear power activities.

Crop shortfall likely to bring large rise in potato prices

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

POTATO prices in Britain will rise sharply in the next few months according to trends on the London futures market. Over the past three months the price for delivery in April 1984 has jumped from £95 a tonne to £269, going up by £40 last week alone.

By the time the potatoes reach the shops next spring potatoes could be between 16p and 28p a pound compared with 8p to 14p now and 5p to 10p a year ago.

The last time potato prices reached record levels was in the very hot summer of 1976, when they ranged between 14p and 20p that May.

This summer's surge has been triggered by mounting fears that the season's crops in Britain, and the rest of Europe, will be well down as a result of this year's weather. First of all, excessive rain at the beginning of the year delayed plantings and prevented farmers from spraying chemicals against diseases, such as potato blight.

Since the rains ended, the long, hot, dry spell has made the situation worse. Potatoes are 80 per cent water. The lack of moisture has delayed growth and threatens to cut yields drastically from the record level of 38.66 tons a hectare achieved last year.

Although the state of the crop varies widely throughout the country, with irrigated growers doing extremely well, it is calculated that total output could be well over 1m tonnes below the 6.5m tonnes produced last year, which was just above consumption of around 6.25m.

Some futures traders are forecasting that the crop could be as much as 2m tonnes down this year. But in the words of a Potato Marketing Board official: "They tend to go absolutely potty down there"; certainly the recent surge in prices includes a large proportion of speculative buying, including a lot by farmers.

In spite of the tendency for market exaggeration, fears of a shortfall in supplies developing, especially in the crunch period next spring before the early crop starts being harvested, seem well justified. The problem is that the bad potato weather throughout Europe means there are unlikely to be any supplies spare for Britain.

Indeed, many countries, such as Holland, which are normally exporters, may be competing for imports from elsewhere, such as Cyprus. The unknown factor, of course, is how badly demand will be affected by the higher prices not only for potatoes themselves, but also potato-based products.

ICL ban on overtime could spread

By David Goodhart

INTERNATIONAL computers (ICL) could face a national overtime ban by its 10,000 white collar staff if its latest pay offer is rejected.

Union leaders have recommended their members on the manufacturing and sales side of the company to reject the offer of a 4 per cent increase on basic rates and a 3 per cent bonus payment to selected individuals. The offer is now going to a ballot. The result will be known on August 22.

About 1,000 staff at Ashton, Kidsgrove and Letchworth have already started an overtime ban. Two weeks ago 2,500 workers took part in a one-day strike.

The company says it is difficult to assess the effect of the overtime ban so far but if it was to be extended across the company it would clearly be a major setback.

Mr Tim Webb, national officer of ASTMS, the white collar union, said: "The workforce has held back over the last two years because of the company's difficult position but ICL have completely mishandled these negotiations. If the vote goes against the acceptance of the latest offer it looks to be a national overtime ban."

UK NEWS

Lotus says board not split over results

By John Griffiths

REPORTS OF a split among Group Lotus directors on the eve of today's vote by shareholders on a financial restructuring were strongly denied by a board member last night.

Mr Alan Curtis, former chairman of Aston Martin and a Lotus director since last year, said he had been astonished by reports that Mr David Wickins, whose British Car Auctions group is expected to become Lotus's largest shareholder, is threatening to dissociate himself from the first half results announced on Friday because he had not been informed in advance about them.

Lotus chairman Mr Fred Bushell announced a pre-tax profit of £109,000 against a £289,000 loss in the corresponding half of 1982.

There seems no doubt that there has been at least a misunderstanding between *Mr Wickins and others* on the board over the scheduling of the announcement. Mr Wickins was unavailable for comment yesterday but is understood to have been irritated at not being fully aware of the announcement plan.

Mr Curtis said, however, that immediately following the appearance of the reports he had been in contact with all board members and there was no question of a problem tomorrow. "On the contrary, it is likely to be one of the most amicable meetings for years."

CBI dampens fears of upsurge by militants

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

A LEADER of the Confederation of British Industry, the employer's organisation, yesterday dismissed speculation about a "red mole hunt" throughout industry in the wake of BL's dismissal of 13 alleged Trotskyite infiltrators at its Cowley assembly plant, Oxford.

Mr Dick Price, the CBI's new social affairs director, said in a radio interview that the BL affair appeared to be "a particular problem in a particular area."

It went against the trend of recent years on the shopfloor, he said. "We have seen much evidence of improved industrial relations." Asked if the BL case was the tip of an iceberg, he said: "If there were any more icebergs in this particular sea, we would have seen them."

There was no evidence from CBI members of a new upsurge in shopfloor troublemakers. In response to suggestions that companies would tighten up selection procedures, he *pointed out that employers were* continually looking at the ways they recruited.

Mr Price drew attention to new methods of employee involvement. "The sort of systems which have been evolved over the last few years will make it much easier for companies and unions to ensure they do not get *moles creeping in,"* he said.

The Socialist League, to which the Cowley 13 allegedly belong, is to some extent a problem for employees in that it recently began diverting members into industry. But memberships of many Trotskyist groups remain low, and their opportunities for militancy have been restricted by recession – although there have been notable gains in some unions.

With unemployment high, few companies have offered the opportunities for infiltration which BL did by taking on 1,500 new workers *for the Maestro car launch.*

The extent to which vetting can be tightened is limited. BL relied on references and the instincts of personnel managers. To apply full security screening to hundreds of thousands of unskilled or semi-skilled applicants would be uneconomic.

Some observers pointed out yesterday that the alleged Socialist League members had played into BL's hands. By moving very quickly into union posts – one was a shop steward and four were prospective stewards – they aroused suspicion and increased the risk of being reported to the company.

Weekend reports that the Government would tighten its own vetting methods seem exaggerated. It has long been aware of Trotskyists active in unions such as the Civil and Public Services Association, and at a higher level of the problem of leaks.

Unions accused of inflating figures

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

MR TERRY DUFFY, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, (AEUW), Britain's second largest union, has stirred fresh controversy over union memberships by accusing other unions of overstating their figures – which they are certain to deny.

Stung by left-wing claims that the AUEW membership was under 1m before Christmas, and that it was wrongly claiming four instead of three seats on the Trades Union Congress (TUC) general council under the new automatic representation system likely to be adopted this autumn, Mr Duffy has written to Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, to set the record straight.

Mr Duffy yesterday stuck to his assertion that the December figure was 1,001,898. He explained the difference between that an an internal figure of 944,055 by saying that the internal figure produced by researchers omitted 62,000 members in arrears with subscriptions.

Expansion of security lockers planned

By Charles Batchelor

A NUMBER of the companies which have opened safe deposit centres in central London in recent months are preparing to expand into the capital's suburbs and provincial cities. The centres offer secure lockers on a *daily to* an annual basis for people wishing to store valuables or documents.

Despite evidence that the centres will achieve only a gradual increase in their clientele rather than any spectacular growth, most operators are pleased enough with their performance to plan new openings.

Safe deposit centres promise to be one of the fastest growing areas of the security industry in the next few years. A sharp increase in burglaries and the premiums insurance companies demand for home contents cover are expected to increase demand.

Some banks offer locker space but it has not made commercial sense for them to expand the service and a number are withdrawing the facility. The new centres usually offer a far higher degree of security coupled with long opening hours.

The Gomba Group, which operates a centre with nearly 5,000 individual boxes in Park Street behind Park Lane, plans to open centres in Birmingham, Leicester and Wembley next year. It is also looking at opportunities in other London suburbs.

"We are finalising our plans in those three places and are about to award contracts," said Mr Peter Wilde of Gomby, a privately-owned company with extensive trading and manufacturing interests.

Safe Deposit Centres (SDC), which includes insurance companies among its backers and which already has operations in Knightsbridge and St John's Wood, also has plans for expanding in the provinces.

The company has reached the planning permission stage for new centres in Leicester and a major city in the north of England, though its proposals are less far advanced than those of Gomba.

SDC reports that nearly 20 per cent of the space available at its Knightsbridge safe deposit, which opened in January, has been *taken up. Gomba* is believed to have achieved similar results in Park Street.

Mr Frank McTighe, managing director of SDC said: "We are trotting along very nicely. We sell boxes every day although the British public is slow to accept what is a new idea for this country."

All the operators claim they have made no concessions on their original tariffs despite the growth in competition.

"Price does not seem to be a factor," said Mr McTighe. "People are writing out cheques for £2,000 or even paying cash for three to five year contracts."

Berkely Safe Deposit Company, which operated two centres at Victoria Station and in Mayfair before the recent spate of new openings, says it has postponed plans to invest in the UK and is looking overseas.

Berkeley is investigating market prospects in Austria with a local partner and may start building work next year. It is also looking at Hong Kong, where its parent company Chequepoint Corporation has its base, and in the longer term, at the Netherlands.

Access turnover jumps by 32.5%

By Alan Friedman, Banking Correspondent

ACCESS, the joint credit card company owned by Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Westminster Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland group, recorded £2.79bn turnover in the 12-month period to June 30, a *32.5 per cent rise year on year.*

This compares with Barclaycard's turnover for 1982 of £2.18bn. Barclaycard said its turnover for the six-month period to June was £1.25bn.

Access says it saw a 13.5 per cent increase in the number of card holders, to a level of 6.56m *at June 30. New Access customers* are being recruited at an average monthly rate of 65,500.

The number of retail outlets in the United Kingdom and Irish Republic accepting the Access card now totals nearly 204,000 an increase of 8 per cent on the previous year. This compares with 199,000 establishments accepting Barclaycard.

In the period from July 1982 to June of this year Access cardholders spent £100m abroad. At the same time, spending in the UK by overseas visitors via the Access system was £63.7m.

Access says it lost £4.8m as a result of fraud during the 12-month period to June 30. This represented 0.17 per cent of turnover.

Forecasters in close agreement on course of UK economy

BY MAX WILKINSON, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE FORECASTING profession is showing impressive unanimity about the likely state of the UK economy this year and next.

None of the major forecasts deviates by much more than the normal margin of error from the FT average forecast for an increase of 2½ per cent in output this year compared with 1982.

There is also little variation in *the forecasters' predictions for* inflation which average at around 5¾ per cent by the end of this year. Unanimity has not always been a guarantee that the forecasters will be right, however.

In 1982 almost all of them were much too pessimistic about inflation even at a late stage in the year.

Some of the forecasters, including the London Business School, make predictions for the consumer price index, which unlike the retail price index does not take account of changes of mortgage interest rates.

The annual rate of change of the two indices can differ by as much as a percentage point – particularly at times like last year – when interest rates are changing rapidly.

For 1984 there is similarly very close agreement that output will grow at a modest rate of about 2 per cent.

There is a significant difference, however, between those forecasters including those at the Treasury and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) who expect a gentle acceleration in the pace of activity, compared with the more pessimistic view, current among City of London analysts that there might be some slowdown next year.

This difference, however, is fairly small and may reflect the fact that City of London forecasts have been done mostly at a later date than the Treasury's latest published prediction.

The notable exception to the consensus is a forecast by Liverpool University. This expects a sharp acceleration of output next year, partly resulting from a very low inflation rate that it expects to fall to under 2 per cent.

Liverpool University's economic model assumes that trade unions and others will adapt their wage bargaining to an expectation that the Government will be determined *and successful in restraining* growth of the money supply.

Other forecasters of a more "Keynesian" persuasion sometimes smile at the optimism behind this assumption. The Liverpool group did, however, make a better prediction for inflation last year than most of its competitors, although it was much too optimistic about output.

The main impetus for recovery seen by most forecasters comes from a continued surge in demand from consumers, and the much slower rate at which companies are running down stocks. Most *forecasters believe some rebuilding* of stocks may start towards the end *of this year or at the beginning of* next.

A change in the level of stocks can give only a temporary boost to the economy, however.

FT ESSENCE OF FORECASTS
(annual percent changes)

	1983	1984
Output	2.4	2.1
Consumer spending	2.4	1.5
Exports	1.6	4.1
Imports	4.9	4.6
Inflation (4th quarter)	5.7	6.3
Unemployed, adults(m)	3.1	3.1
Current account, balance of pay. (£bn)	0.9	0.4
Public Sector borrowing financial years £bn	8.9	8.3

UK NEWS

Sluggish decade forecast for food sector

By Carla Rapoport

BRITAIN's food and drink industry, *one of the largest manufacturing in*dustries in the UK, faces a decade of stagnant demand for most of its products and a continuing decline in its levels of employment.

This is the conclusion of a recent study by the Food and Drink Manufacturing Economic Development Committee (*EDC*), a *tri-partite* group of high-level representatives from unions, industry and Government which prepared the report at the request of the National Economic Development Council.

Industry representatives on the committee, which includes Sir Hector Laing, chairman of *United Bis*cuits, and Mr A. C. Emmerson, vice-chairman UK, Unilever, report that even if the UK economy as a whole becomes extremely buoyant, with rising incomes and increasing employment, *few* benefits will accrue to the food and drink industry.

"The population is static and UK consumers are generally eating as much as they need for nutritional and energy requirements," the report states.

Between 1978 and 1982, employment in UK food and drink manu*facturing fell by 11 per cent* to 578,100. The study points out that widespread unemployment has hit spending on food and drink. In 1980, household spending on food was about 20 per cent of total consumer expenditure; by 1982, it had fallen to 15.5 per cent. Expenditure on alcoholic drink in the same period declined in real terms by about 8.5 per cent.

Trade Union members of the EDC estimate in the report that national economic growth in the region of 5 or 6 per cent a year would be needed over the next few years simply to stabilise employment in the food and drink sector at current levels.

Despite these problems, the Food and Drink EDC does point out that there is scope for new product and technical developments within the industry. *In addition*, there are opportunities for increased exports and import substitution. Britain's exports of food and drink more than doubled between 1975 and 1980. Compared with France, the Netherlands and West Germany, however, Britain's export performance has been poor.

Review of the Food and Drink Manufacturing Industry. Report to the National Economic Development Council, NEDC, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW 1.

PROPOSALS AIMED TO INCREASE DISCLOSURE IN THE INSURANCE MARKET

Lloyd's to unveil reform plan

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

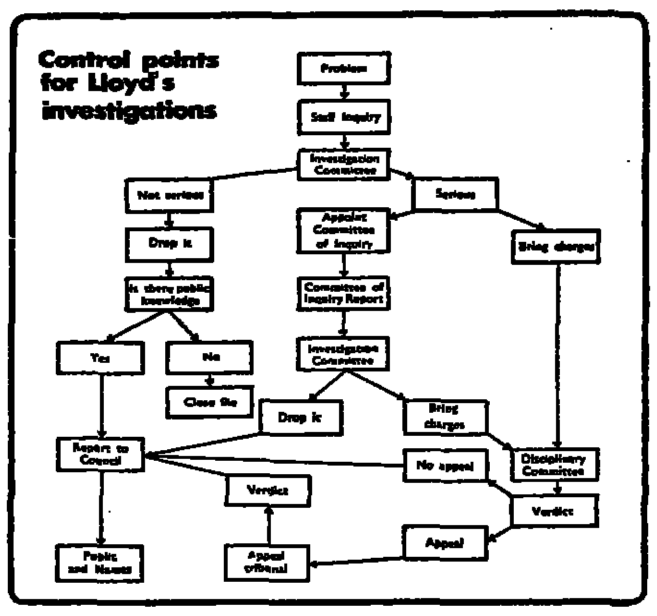
A CONSULTATIVE document outlining proposals for the disclosure of related business interests of Lloyd's underwriting agents, the professionals who look after the affairs of all members of the Lloyd's *insurance market*, will be unveiled today by Mr Ian Hay Davison, the market's chief executive.

The new proposals, which will form the basis for discussion with the market, were outlined earlier this year. Essentially these measures, designed to increase disclo*sure in the market* so conflicts of interest may be identified and abuses stamped out following a series of scandals in the Lloyd's community, could lead to the introduction of a two part register in Lloyd's showing the inter-connecting business interests of underwriting agents.

In the first register, available to the public and members of Lloyd's, shareholding links of underwriting agents with related companies would be disclosed. A second register would disclose how much the agents make from these related business links.

*The latter register would be avail*able only to the Lloyd's ruling council, dominated by Lloyd's working professionals, who would judge whether the level of benefit from these commercial links was acceptable. Underwriting members of Lloyd's are likely to be restricted in their access to this register, in that they may be allowed to only examine the agencies that look after their affairs.

Already the proposals so far contemplated have been criticised by some of the outside membership of Lloyd's, which pledges its capital to allow the market to function but does not work in the market, as being too limited in that they do not allow enough independence of assessment as to the regularity of the interconnecting links and the amount of benefit derived.



Control points for Lloyd's investigations

Another important change last month in the regulatory system of Lloyd's also *raises questions* about the degree of independence of assessment allowed in the new investigations and disciplinary structure created for the market.

Under its new procedures Lloyd's *has created an investigations com*mittee, which has replaced the ad hoc investigations steering committee. The powers delegated to the investigations committee by the Lloyd's ruling council are wide. These include the power to directly appoint committees of inquiry and investigations, to establish their terms of reference and to monitor their progress. The committee will take decisions on whether or not to refer matters to the disciplinary committee.

The new structure was presented by Mr Davison in chart form at a press conference last month. Four of the seven man committee are working members of the Lloyd's market, two are drawn from the external member representatives on the council, and the committee is chaired by one of the independent appointments on the council, approved by the Bank of England, Mr Edward Walker-Arnott.

In addition Mr Davison is to be an ex-officio member. Yet the new structure has created a system whereby certain investigations and problems may never be referred back to the full ruling council of Lloyd's.

If the investigations committee decide that one of the Lloyd's problems is not serious the matter could be dropped and the file closed without reference back to the council. That is, unless there is public knowledge. By that any reference to any problem in the press will mean that the matter will be referred to the council, irrespective of its seriousness.

The new scheme reflects the style of self regulation at Lloyd's since Mr Davison took office in mid-February. He believes that as far as possible powers should be delegated from the ruling council to more manageable executive committees.

Moreover, he believes that Lloyd's should evolve a series of codes of conduct to support self-regulation within the market.

Lloyd's now argues that to develop a rigorous and detailed system of by-laws, covering all aspects of self-regulation, which would be backed by the new Lloyd's statutory regulations is both costly and could stifle the market's vitality.

"An economic judgement must inform the whole approach," said a recent policy document, "there is no point in a market perfectly regulated but inert. The regulatory system must allow the market to develop *profitably in response* to economic demand."

The policy document also admits that "the introduction of codes of conduct into the self-regulatory structure could be seen as creating some enforcement problems," particularly since they would not be *taken as conclusive evidence by a* court in any action.

Lloyd's envisages that a breach of a code could be dealt with informally through private intervention by the Lloyd's chairman. This might lead to a private reprimand by the Lloyd's chairman or a reprimand posted in the Lloyd's underwriting room. But by-laws would be required to make deliberate or persistant breaches of the codes a breach of the by-laws from which formal disciplinary proceedings could result.

Ski holiday operators cut summer prices

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

A PRICE WAR has broken out in the *booming British ski market.* One of the market leaders, Inghams, has cut the prices of about one third of its winter sports holidays by as much as £118.

Inghams is making no secret of the fact that it has been influenced by the success of Britain's biggest tour operator, Thomson, which has also cut prices for its main summer programme for 1983.

In both cases the tour companies have been influenced by the *fact that many smaller* companies wait until the majors publish brochures and prices, and then undercut the market leaders. "They will now see that we are prepared to react," said the managing director of Hotelplan UK (the Inghams parent), Mr Ron Haylock, yesterday.

The move is the second marketing surprise from the Swiss-owned Hotelplan group in Britain this year. Only two months ago it revealed that it was dropping the Swans winter sports *programme as a separate opera*tion. Last winter Swans and Inghams each carried about 15,000 British skiers to Europe.

The total UK package tour market for adults is about 200,000. A further 200,000 is made up of schoolchildren and independent travellers.

Inghams price cuts reduce the cost of holiday in the Sporting Hotel at Cervinia in Italy by £50, to the Regina in Wengen, Switzerland, by £32 and to the Kramerwirt in the highly popular Aus*trian resort of Mayrhofen by* £118.

"We are not prepared to start the main part of the wintersports sales season with an uncompetitive product," said Mr Haylock.

Customers who have already *booked and paid are being* sent refunds.

Mr Haylock also promised that there would be no last minute discounting of holidays, later in the season.

Backing for Airbus urged by TUC

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT and British Airways should declare now their firm backing for the new high-technology A-320 150-seat version of the European Airbus, according to the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

This is one of a number of recommendations for what is described as "more positive Government support" for the UK aerospace industry, contained in a new TUC strategy report on the industry published today.

Other ventures which the TUC believes need stronger Government commitments include the potential Agile Combat Aircraft (ACA) and its engine, as a replacement for the Jaguar fighter; a reversal of the slowdown in the production programme for the Tornado combat aircraft; a procurement decision on the British Aerospace Coastguarder *maritime surveillance aircraft, and* more Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft.

The TUC also argues for substantially greater public investment in aerospace, and a return to state ownership of the British Aerospace group itself, a substantial proportion of whose shares are now held by private investors, following the partial privatisation of the group some time ago.

It is claimed by the TUC that "privatising" the industry's largest enterprise has threatened the fi*nancial basis on which key invest*ment decisions, affecting the whole industry, are made.

"Private shareholders expect short-term returns, and are, in Britain at least, excessively wary of high cost long-term investments with low initial rates of return.

"This attitude has bedevilled much of British industry for years. In aerospace, sizeable civil and military projects now require enormous investment commitments, yet may not show a product – let alone a profit – for many years."

The TUC claims that the relevant Government departments are now displaying "an alarming combination of complacency, hesitancy, and lack of vision" in their handling of aerospace policy, with several major decisions overdue.

The price of this, claims the TUC, is already being paid in redundancies, and it fears that these may increase, with the aerospace industry following other industries into decline.

BUSINESSMAN'S DIARY

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Aug. 19-29
Bike Exhibition (01-385 1200)
Earls Court

Aug. 21-24
International Craft and Hobby Fair (04252 72711)
Wembley Conference Centre

Aug. 27-29
Hi-Fi Show (01-686 2599)
Heathrow Penta Hotel

Sept. 1-3
Business and Light Aviation Show (01-643 8040)
Cranfield

Sept. 3-7
Autumn Gifts Fair (01-855 9201)
Olympia

Sept. 5-8
Builder's merchants exhibition—BEMEX (01-680 4200)
Wembley Conference Centre

Sept. 6-9
International Carpet Fair (021 705 6707)
Harrogate Exhibition Centre

Sept. 6-9
Offshore Europe Exhibition and Conference (01-549 5831)
Bridge of Don Showground, Aberdeen

Sept. 11-14
Cable and Satellite TV Exhibition and Conference—CAST (01-487 4397)
N.E.C., Birmingham

Sept. 11-14
International Menswear — MAB (0727 63213)
Earls Court

OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS

Aug. 28-30
International Security Conference and Exhibition (0483 38085)
New York

Sept 1-3
International Semi Conductor and Electronics Components Exhibition — INTERNEPCON (0483 38085)
Hong Kong

Sept 4-10
International Autumn Fair (01-493 3111)
Leipzig

Sept 8-10
International Confectionary, Chocolate and Biscuit Trade Exhibition—INTERSUC (01-439 3964)
Paris

Sept. 10-18
International Autumn Trade Fair (01-891 2606)
Vienna

Sept 14-21
International Engineering Fair (021-455 9600)
Brno

Sept. 15-25
International Motor Show (01-734 0543)
Frankfurt

Sept. 19-22
International Hotel and Catering Equipment Exhibition—IGAFA (01-486 1951)
Munich

Sept. 26-30
S.E. Asian Production Machinery and Industrial Development Show—MACHINE ASIA (01-486 1951)
Singapore

Sept. 27-Oct. 1
International Chemical Plant and Engineering Exhibition—INCHEM (01-221 2043)
Tokyo

Sept. 30-Oct. 4
Toy and Gift Autumn Show (01-839 5901)
Taipei

Oct. 2-6
Middle East Construction and Municipal Services Exhibition (01-935 8200)
Kuwait

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Sept. 1-2
Metal Bulletin barter conference (01-330 4311)
Vista Hotel, New York, U.S.

Sept. 7-8
FT Conference: Asian energy (01-621 1355)
Singapore

Sept. 12-14
Risk Research Group: Captive insurance companies—establishment, operation and management (01-236 2175)
Tower Hotel, London

Sept. 14-16
Industrial Relations Services: Employee communications—how to get your message across and achieve success (01-328 4751)
College of Marketing, Cookham, Berks.

Sept. 14-16
Frost and Sullivan: Office automation and integrated information processing support systems (01-486 0334)
Hilton Hotel, Amsterdam

Sept. 15-16
INSIG: *International seminar on* micro-computers and banks (Luxembourg 209 31)
Luxembourg

Sept. 18-23
The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants: The design and development of management information systems (01637 2311)
Cawthorpe House, Bourne, near Peterborough

Sept. 19-20
Business Research International: The international loan markets 1983 (01-637 4383)
Cafe Royal, W1

Sept. 19-21
British Institute of Non-destructive Testing annual conference (0604 30124)
Keele University

Sept 20-22
Reinsurance Management Institute: Fundamentals of reinsurance (U.S. 214-721 5360)
University of Dallas

Sept 20
Oyez IBC: The art of negotiating for company executives and professional advisers (01-236 4080)
Portman Hotel, W1

Sept 22
Institute of Purchasing and Supply: The use of computers to aid purchasing and materials management (0780 56777)
Cumberland Hotel, W1

Sept 26-29
ETMC: European truck maintenance conference (01-572 7313)
Sheraton Hotel, Brussels

Sept 27
Oyez IBC: The weaponry of civil procedure (01-236 4080)
Cavendish Conference Centre, W1

Sept. 28-29
FT Conference: World financial futures (01-621 1355)
Royal Lancaster Hotel, W2

Anyone wishing to attend any of the above events is advised to telephone the organisers to ensure that there has been no change in the details published.

TUC to examine loss of Labour Party votes

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANGING PATTERNS of trade unionists' political voting will be the centre of focus when the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in Blackpool next month re-examines its links with the Labour Party. More generally it will re-examine the principles which it believes should shape modern trade unionism in Britain.

This week TUC staff in London will begin drawing up the agenda for the Blackpool conference and study more than 200 resolutions submitted for debate.

Four of these resolutions deal with the present role of the TUC and its political relationships.

A resolution from the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) is probably the most radical, calling for a new definition of trade union principles and a new plan for their survival.

The CPSA's call is based on the lessons of the June general election, and in particular the poll figures which showed that only 39 per cent of trade unionists voted Labour, compared with 55 per cent in October 1974.

Much more detailed support for the CPSA case comes in an analysis of the union vote at the last election prepared by the Trade Unions for a Labour Victory (TULV) group; based on private poll evidence prepared for the Labour Party.

UK TRADE UNION VOTE SINCE 1974 (%)

	October 1974	Change 74–79	May 1979	Change 79–83	June 1983	Change 74–83
Labour	55	− 4	51	−12	39	−16
Conservative	23	+10	33	− 2	31	+ 8
Lib/Alliance	16	− 3	13	+16	29	+13
Others	6	− 3	3	− 2	1	− 5

Source: Trade Unions for a Labour Victory

The TULV's papers chart the progressive decline in union support for Labour. Its main conclusions are:

● The union vote for Labour has fallen by 16 per cent since 1974. By comparison, the Conservative union vote has risen by 8 per cent and the Liberal/Alliance vote by 13 per cent.

● Only among non-skilled manual workers does Labour now have even 50 per cent of the trade union vote. Among skilled manual workers, the Conservatives and Alliance, with 54 per cent combined, now have a 10 per cent lead over Labour.

● The union vote for Labour in the last election collapsed during the campaign itself, falling overall by 10 per cent. All of it went to the Alliance.

Within these main outlines is the changing pattern of the union vote, though, there are other significant shifts. The analysis shows that during the campaign, the biggest switches away from Labour among trade unionists were among young people (18-24, 20 per cent; 24-34, 14 per cent).

Trade unionists' views of the party leaders are also startling. Weightings given at the start of the campaign to Mr Michael Foot (15), Mrs Margaret Thatcher (41), Mr David Steel (45) and Mr Roy Jenkins (42), all rose during the campaign – Mr Foot's by the largest amount, though from an astonishingly low base of union support.

They finished: Foot (25), Thatcher (44), Steel (49) and Jenkins (46).

TULV does not see the leadership issue as the prime cause of the switch in trade unionists' votes, but instead questions the impact on trade unionists of Labour's whole campaign. TULV sees the key to that in the shift of the union vote towards the Alliance.

TULV examines the trade union attitude to aspects of Labour's current policy.

Launch of Boots' pain-killer starts new drug company race

BY CARLA RAPOPORT

A FREE-FOR-ALL in the fiercely competitive international pain-reliever market begins today.

Boots, one of Britain's leading retailers, unveils Nurofen, a pill which it claims is the first totally new, non-prescription pain-killer for more than 20 years since the launch of paracetamol and aspirin. Boots also claims that Nurofen is better tolerated and more effective than aspirin with codeine and paracetamol.

It can make these claims comfortably, with impressive backing from the medical establishment, because it discovered the chemical ingredient in Nurofen, ibuprofen, more than 15 years ago and has been selling it world-wide for prescription use for more than 14 years.

Last month, Boots won Government approval for an over-the-counter licence for ibuprofen, but in pharmacies only. As a result, Nurofen, in its flashy silver and red package, was born. The two products are exactly the same, but Nurofen, as a non-prescription product, can be promoted to the public.

Boots' patent for ibuprofen has already expired in the UK and by law, any licensed manufacturer can make, label and sell it.

In fact, someone already has. Today, International Laboratories, a privately-owned medicines group based in Hampshire, launches Proflex, backed up by a £½m national media campaign. Proflex's main ingredient is ibuprofen.

Mr Raymond Bellm, managing director of International Laboratories, which has a turnover of around £8.5m in over-the-counter medicines said: "When we saw ibuprofen moving from prescription to over-the-counter, we licensed the technology to make it from a generic manufacure and got a product licence."

Proflex, according to Mr Bellm, has just been accepted for sales at Boots. Boots, however, has big plans for promoting Nurofen which include an advertising budget at least three times the size of Mr Bellm's and involved television. Boots says it aims for a substantial slice of the £70m over-the-counter pain-reliever market in the UK within the first two or three years of sales.

Also challenging Boots is the stagnant position of the UK analgesic market. According to the Proprietary Association of Great Britain, the over-the-counter trade association, the pain-reliever market may be shrinking due to the wider use of the contraceptive pill, causing a decline in the incidence of period pain among women and the decreased use of pain-relievers for stress because of the increased emphasis on sports and exercise among those between 30 and 50 years old.

Two British airlines may still face more U.S. litigation

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

THE ORDEAL by litigation could still continue in the U.S. for British Airways and British Caledonian. The success of the two airlines in getting the backing of the Court of Appeal in London for their efforts to block the $1.7bn anti-trust damages claim brought against them and others in the U.S. by the liquidator of Laker Airways, may prove to have been a hollow victory.

Even if, later this year, the House of Lords upholds the appeal judges' decision to order the liquidator, Mr Christopher Morris, of Touche Ross, to discontinue the claim against the two UK airlines, this may not be the end of the matter.

Judge Harold H. Greene, who is trying the preliminary stages of the case in the district court in Washington, has indicated that if the English courts called Mr Morris off, the judge might appoint someone else to carry on the action against BA and British Caledonian.

If Mr Morris were unable to act it might become appropriate "to appoint a receiver or trustee to protect (Laker's) interests and possibly those of American creditors," Judge Greene said in an opinion given earlier this year.

The result of such an appointment would be that Mr Morris would pursue his claim against Pan American, Trans World, Lufthansa, Swissair, KLM, Sabena and McDonnell Douglas, while the "receiver or trustee" would take over the case against the UK airlines.

In practical terms, therefore, the situation would be largely unchanged, with BA and British Caledonian still faced with the claim for triple damages which is one of the aspects of the case that is causing them the greatest anxiety.

Their only consolation might be that the claim might be brought only on behalf of U.S. creditors; but that would be offset by a decision by Mr Morris to sue them in the UK.

The UK airlines say that if – which they dispute – they are liable to be sued over the Laker collapse – for which they deny any responsibility – it should be in England and nowhere else. It will be for Mr Morris to decide, if the Law Lords rule against him, whether to take up that option.

The Court of Appeal decided that, in view of directions given by the UK Government under the 1980 Protection of Trading Interests Act, it would be "a total denial of justice" to allow the U.S. case to go ahead against BA and British Caledonian.

The airlines were directed not to provide the U.S. court with documents from the UK, and not to comply with any anti-trust judgment.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls (President of the Court of Appeal's civil division) said those directions had made the issues raised in the action "wholly untriable" as between Laker and the UK airlines.

As the airlines would be barred from complying with any judgment they would face having their aircraft seized in the U.S. in execution of such a judgment.

The documents direction created an impossible situation for both parties. BA and British Caledonian would suffer most because they would be unable to defend themselves before the district court. Laker might be able to obtain from the other parties evidence pointing the finger at the UK airlines, who would be prevented from explaining their conduct.

The directions were the decisive factor, said Sir John. But the UK airlines were also entitled to rely on the UK Government's view that the U.S. was in breach of the Anglo-U.S. Bermuda Two civil aviation agreement in using the anti-trust law against them.

If the U.S. were to accept the British view, Laker's claim would be unsustainable.

Sir John was at pains not to exacerbate further the strained relations between the English and U.S. courts that have resulted from the jurisdictional clash in the Laker affair.

"We and all other English judges would deeply regret any misunderstanding on the part of our brethren in the United States of what exactly we are doing and why we are doing it," he said.

No-one suggested that the Washington court did not have the jurisdiction to try the case against BA and British Caledonian, and "neither the English courts nor the English judges entertain any feelings of hostility towards the American anti-trust law or would ever wish to denigrate that or any other American law."

But the English courts, like those in the U.S., had the power to stop a party over whom they had jurisdiction from pursuing litigation before a foreign tribunal if they believed that injustice would result.

It was a power that had to be exercised with extreme caution – particularly where, as in the Laker case, the same rights and remedies were not available to the plaintiff in the English courts.

Printing union in 'parlous cash plight'

By David Goodhart

NATIONAL Graphical Association (NGA), a leading union in the printing industry, has reported a serious financial plight. It has called for a far-reaching review of the union's internal structure to be presented to a special conference in November.

A consultative paper drawn up by the union's national council says: "The parlous financial position that the association finds itself in demands that the structure of the union is not only industrially effective, but that it is also cost effective."

The NGA – which has 113,000 members – is still the richest union of its size in the country with assets of more than £10m and an annual income exceeding £5m according to the latest report of the Certification Officer. But the union also paid out nearly £2m in unemployment benefit last year to members eligible for the £33 a week benefit which lasts for 26 weeks. About 5 per cent of union members are unemployed, but only 2.5 per cent claim the benefit.

The consultative paper recommends replacing the special 75p a week unemployment levy on all members, introduced earlier this year, with subscription supported benefits.

The main thrust of the structural reforms – the most radical reorganisation since 1972 – involves dissolving the regional structure (except in London), the executive committee and the trade group boards and creating a single operational chain from local to national level.

Other proposals include:

● Continuation of the basic chapel (office branch) structure but chapels will be urged to amalgamate wherever possible "so that the structure of the union more adequately reflects changes in the industry."

● Reducing the size of the national council – which now stands at about 50 member to 32.

● An appeals committee to be set up, separate from the national council, with seven members.

Mr Tony Dubbins, the NGA assistant general secretary for the past seven years, is favourite to win the election for general secretary-elect to take over from Mr Joe Wade, the present general secretary.

COMPANY NOTICES

SECURITY AND PROSPERITY FUND

Societe Anonyme
"SEPRO"
2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B8453

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders of Security and Prosperity Fund S.A. ("The Company") will be held at 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg, at 11 a.m. on 31st August 1983 with the following Agenda:

1. Approval and ratification of an agreement dated 5 August 1983 made between the Company and Save and Prosper International Growth Fund Limited ("IGF") a corporation organised and existing under the laws of Bermuda, having its registered office at Thirty, Cedar Avenue, Hamilton 5, Bermuda, by which.
   (a) The Company will purchase shares in IGF having an aggregate asset value equal to the value of the assets to be transferred pursuant to (b) at a price per share equal to the net asset value per share in IGF calculated in accordance with the provisions of the agreement at such date as may be agreed by the Company and IGF and
   (b) The Company will transfer to IGF all its assets less an amount sufficient to meet all liabilities of the Company.
2. Dissolution of the Company and appointment of a Liquidator.
3. Instructions to the Liquidator to give effect to the above-mentioned agreement and to distribute shares in IGF to all shareholders of the Company.
4. Suspension of the repurchase of the shares of the Company with effect on the last preceding valuation date of the Company.

Shareholders are advised that the quorum required at the Extraordinary General Meeting in order for valid decisions to be taken on items 1 and 2 of the Agenda is the holders present in person or by proxy of at least 50% of the shares of the Company issued and outstanding.

In the event tha. the quorum is not present (or if the Board or the Directors decide for other reasons) a second meeting at which there will be no quorum requirement may be convened by further notice. In such event voting on all items of the above Agenda will be adjourned to that second meeting.

In accordance with Luxembourg law resolutions 1 and 2 proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting and at any adjournment thereof will require the concurrence of holders of two-thirds of the total number of shares represented at the meeting.

Shareholders may vote at the meeting by proxy by completing the form of proxy which is available at the Head Office of the Company. In order to be valid all forms of proxies must reach the Company at 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg not later than 3 p.m. on 30th August 1983.

Copies of a circular letter dated 8 August 1983 to the shareholders of the Company are available on request at the Head Office of the Company, 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

In order to take part at the meeting on August 31st, 1983 the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at Banque Internationale a Luxembourg S.A., 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

For and on behalf of Sepro
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECURITY AND PROSPERITY FUND

Société Anonyme
"SEPRO"
2, boulevard Royal
LUXEMBOURG
R.C. Luxembourg B 8453

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders of Security & Prosperity Fund S.A. ("The Company") will be held at 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg, at 11 a.m. on 31st August 1983 with the following agenda:

1. Approval and ratification of an Agreement dated 5 August 1983 made between the Company and Save & Prosper International Growth Fund Limited ("IGF"), a corporation organised and existing under the laws of Bermuda, having its registered office at Thirty, Cedar Avenue, Hamilton 5, Bermuda, by which:
   (a) the Company will purchase shares in IGF having an aggregate asset value equal to the value of the assets to be transferred pursuant to (b) at a price per share equal to the net asset value per share in IGF calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement at such date as may be agreed by the Company and IGF and
   (b) the Company will transfer to IGF all its assets less an amount sufficient to meet all liabilities of the Company.
2. Dissolution of the Company and appointment of a liquidator.
3. Instructions to the liquidator to give effect to the above-mentioned agreement and to distribute shares in IGF to all shareholders of the company.
4. Suspension of the repurchase of the shares of the Company with effect on the last preceding valuation date of the Company.

Shareholders are advised that the quorum required at the Extraordinary General Meeting in order for valid decisions to be taken on items 1 and 2 of the agenda is the holders present in person or by proxy of at least 50% of the shares of the Company issued and outstanding.

In the event that the quorum is not present (or if the Board or the Directors decide for other reasons) a second meeting at which there will be no quorum requirement may be convened by further notice. In such event voting on all items of the above agenda will be adjourned to that second meeting.

In accordance with Luxembourg law resolutions 1 and 2 proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting and at any adjournment thereof will require the concurrence of holders of two-thirds of the total number of shares represented at the Meeting.

Shareholders may vote at the Meeting by proxy by completing the form of proxy which is available at the head office of the company. In order to be valid all forms of proxies must reach the Company at 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg, not later than 3 p.m. on 30th August 1983.

Copies of a circular letter dated 8 August 1983 to the shareholders of the company are available on request at the head office of the Company, 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

In order to take part at the meeting on August 31st, 1983 the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

For and on behalf of SEPRO
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

European Ferries PLC

EUROPEAN FERRIES PLC (CDRs)

The undersigned announces that as from 25th July 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam., div. cp. no. 12 of the CDRs European Ferries PLC, repr. 100 shs. each, will be payable with Dfls. 10.43 net. (re final dividend for the year ended 31st December 1982, 2.35p per share)

Tax credit = £1.00714 = Dfls. 4.48 per CDR. Non-residents of the United Kingdom can only claim this tax credit when the relevant tax treaty meets this facility. Further the undersigned announces that Concessionary Coupon no. 12 will be null and void.

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.
Amsterdam, 11th July 1983

TOWNSEND THORESEN
European Ferries

BRASILVEST S.A.

Sociedade de Investimento
D.L. No. 1401

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND PAYMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the administrative council of the company have resolved on the recommendation of the consultative council of the company that a dividend of cruzeiros 11.68 per cruzeiro share should be paid in respect of the six-month period ended on March 31st, 1983.

After deduction of Brazilian withholding tax at the rate of 10 pct. for the first series, 12 pct. for the second and 15 pct. for the third and fourth series, and the depositary's expenses of U.S. Dollars 0.01 per depositary share, the amount payable in respect of each depositary share (first series) is U.S. Dollars 182.27, in respect of each depositary share (second series) is U.S. Dollars 167.36 in respect of each depositary share (third series) is U.S. Dollars 137.57 and in respect of each depositary share (fourth series) is U.S. Dollars 128.51.

The dividend will be available on or after June 30 1983 to holders of the relevant international depositary receipts by surrender of dividend coupon nr. 14 attached to IDRs in respect of depositary shares (first series), of dividend coupon nr. 13 attached to IDRs in respect of depositary shares (second series), of dividend coupon nr. 10 attached to IDRs in respect of depositary shares (third series) and of dividend coupon nr. 8 attached to IDRs in respect of depositary shares (fourth series) at any of paying agents:

MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK
— Brussels, 35, avenue des Arts
— New York, 30, West Broadway
— London, 1, Angel Court
— Zurich, 38, Stockerstrasse 5CH 8022

INTERCOM
SOCIETE INTERCOMMUNALE BELGE DE GAZ ET D'ELECTRICITE

Société Anonyme
place du Trône 1, Brussels, Belgium

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the final dividend for the financial year ending on December 31st, 1982 will be payable from May 26th, 1983, net of Belgian withholding tax, at BF166 against presentation of coupon No 31 in respect of the 23,783,010 shares entitled to dividend right.

Coupons should be lodged for payment at the current rate of exchange at the offices of
— MIDLAND BANK, International Division, P.O. Box 181, 110-114, Cannon Street, London E.C.4.
— BANQUE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS, S.A., 33, Throgmorton Street, London E.C.2.
— BANQUE BELGE LIMITED, 4, Bishopsgate, London E.C.2.
— Baring BROTHERS AND CO., LIMITED, 88, Leadenhall Street, London E.C.3.
— HILL SAMUEL AND CO., LIMITED, 100, Wood Street, London E.C.2.

By virtue of the bilateral tax convention between the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the one hand, and Belgium on the other hand, withholding tax on dividends is limited to 15%.

Shareholders residing in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland are entitled accordingly either to reclaim tax paid in excess of 15%, or by prior arrangement through their bankers to have the deduction of tax limited to 15%.

In either case, arrangements should be made through the shareholders and bankers.

ASAHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRY LIMITED

Bearer Depositary Receipts
Issued by
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York

A distribution of Dollar 0.249 per depositary share less any applicable taxes will be payable on and after July 25, 1983 upon presentation of coupon No 18 at the office of any of the following depositaries:
— MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST CY. OF NEW YORK:
— New York, 30, West Broadway.
— London, 1, Angel Court.
— Bruxelles, 35, avenue des Arts.
— Paris, 14, Place Vendôme.
— Frankfurt, 46, Mainzer Landstrasse.
— BANQUE GENERALE DU LUXEMBOURG [illegible]

[illegible]

BAXTER/TRAVENOL INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL CORPORATION

FIRST SERIES CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK
Bearer Depositary Receipts
issued by
Morgan Guaranty Trust Cy of New York

A distribution of $0.58 per depositary share less any applicable taxes depending on the presenter's country of residence will be payable on and after July 15, 1983, upon presentation of coupon no. 24 at the office of any of the following depositaries:

—MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST CY OF NEW YORK
—New York, 30, West Broadway
—London, 1, Angel Court
[illegible]

BANQUE WORMS

[illegible]

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

7.50% 1972-1987

[illegible]

MURRAY FUND S.A.

Société Anonyme
Registered Office:
Luxembourg, 14, rue Aldringen
Registre de Commerce:
Section B No. 8.335

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of MURRAY FUND S.A. will be held at its registered office at Luxembourg, 14, rue Aldringen, on August 12th, 1983, at 15.00 o'clock for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

1. To hear and accept the reports of:
   a. the directors
   b. the statutory auditor.
2. To approve the balance sheet and the profit and loss account for the year ended March 31st, 1983 and to consider declaration of dividend.
3. To discharge the directors and the auditor with respect to their performance of duties during the year ended March 31st, 1983.
4. To elect the directors to serve until the next annual general meeting of shareholders.
5. To elect the auditor to serve until the next annual general meeting of shareholders.
6. Any other business.

The shareholders are advised that no quorum for the statutory general meeting is required and that decisions will be taken at the majority of the shares present or represented that the meeting, with the restriction that no shareholder neither by himself nor by proxy can vote for a number of shares in excess of one fifth of the shares issued or two fifths of the shares present or represented at the meeting.

In order to take part at the statutory meeting of August 12th, 1983, the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at the registered office of the Fund, 14, rue Aldringen, Luxembourg, or with the following banks:

Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
14, rue Aldringen
LUXEMBOURG
Clydesdale Bank Limited
30, Lombard Street
LONDON E.C.2
The Board of Directors

HOPE STREET FUND S.A.

Société Anonyme
Registered Office:
Luxembourg, 14, rue Aldringen
Registre de Commerce:
Section B No. 8.621

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of HOPE STREET FUND S.A. will be held at its registered office at Luxembourg, 14, rue Aldringen, on August 12th, 1983, at 15.30 o'clock for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

1. To hear and accept the reports of:
   a. the directors
   b. the statutory auditor.

[illegible]

In order to take part at the statutory meeting of August 12th, 1983, the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at the registered office of the Fund, 14, rue Aldringen, Luxembourg, or with the following banks:

Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
14, rue Aldringen
LUXEMBOURG
Clydesdale Bank Limited
30, Lombard Street
LONDON E.C.2
The Board of Directors

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION
KINGDOM OF DENMARK

$6\frac{3}{4}$% 1972-1987
Lux. Frs. 800,000,000

Bondholders are hereby informed that the annual redemption instalment of Lux. Frs. 80,000,000 due on August 14, 1983, has been partially repurchased for an amount of Lux. Frs. 56,800,000 and partially drawn by lot for the remaining Lux. Frs. 23,200,000 nominal.

The following bond numbers have been drawn by lot in the presence of a notary public and become redeemable at par on and after August 14, 1983, with all unmatured coupons attached thereto:

4892-4911, 4933-4936, 4942, 5160-5253, 5271-5298, 5301-5305, 5316-5320, 5373-5557, 5768-5790, 5793-5860, 5869-5899.

The nominal amount of bonds outstanding on and after August 14, 1983, will be Lux. Frs. 320,000,000.

BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG
Société Anonyme
Paying Agent

Luxembourg, July 9, 1983

BRASCAN LIMITED

Class "C"

International Depositary Receipt (IDR) issued by Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York Brussels Office

A distribution of Can$0.40 per depositary shares less any applicable taxes and fees will be payable on and after August 31, 1983 upon presentation of coupon No 26 at any of the following offices of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York:
— New York, (USA) 30, West Broadway.
— Brussels, 35, avenue des Arts.
— Antwerp, 82, Frankrijklei.
— London, 1, Angel Court.
— Paris, 14, Place Vendôme.
— Frankfurt, Mainzer Landstrasse, 46.
— Zurich, Stockerstrasse, 38.
and Banque Générale du Luxembourg, 14, rue Aldringen, Luxembourg.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Lebanese Pounds 50,000,000
$7\frac{1}{4}$% 1973-1985

Notice is hereby given that this year's redemption instalment of LP 6,750,000 due on September 14, 1983, has been partly satisfied by repurchase of LP 3,713,000 and partly by drawing by lot of the remaining LP 3,037,000.

Following the drawing by lot, which took place at Banque Internationale à Luxembourg on July 13, 1983, in the presence of a notary public, the numbers

37705 to 38100, 39997 to 40078, 41034 to 43583

have been selected by lot and become redeemable at par on and after September 14, 1983, and interest on the bonds will cease on that same date.

The nominal amount of bonds outstanding on and after September 14, 1983, will be LP 13,500,000.

Luxembourg, August 1, 1983

HONDA MOTORS CO. LIMITED

International Depositary Receipts
issued by
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York

A distribution of $0.208 per depositary share less any applicable taxes will be payable on and after June 13, 1983, upon presentation of coupon no. 15 at the offices of The Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York at:
—New York, 30, West Broadway
—Brussels, 35, av. des Arts
—London, 1, Angel Court.
Net rate:
$0.1770 (after deduction of 15% Japanese withholding tax).
$0.1666 (after deduction of 20% Japanese withholding tax).

NACIONAL FINANCIERA S.A.

U.S.$100,000,000
Floating Rate Notes 1978-85-93

[illegible]

BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG, SOCIETE ANONYME
FISCAL AGENT

BOND DRAWINGS

JUTLAND FUNEN ELECTRICITY CONSORTIUM (ELSAM) US$10,000,000
$5\frac{3}{4}$% 20 YEAR EXTERNAL LOAN OF 1964

[illegible]

BONDS OF US.$1,000.00

[illegible]

The following bonds from previous drawings are still outstanding for payment.

Bonds drawn 15th September 1982.

[illegible]

HAMBROS BANK LIMITED
15th August 1983

COMPANY NOTICE

THE PACIFIC FUND S.A.

Société Anonyme
Registered Office
Luxembourg, 14, rue Aldringen
Registre de Commerce
Section B No. 7.525

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

[illegible]

5. To elect the auditor to serve until the next annual general meeting of shareholders.
6. Any other business.

The shareholders are advised that no quorum for the statutory general meeting is required and that decisions will be taken at the majority of the shares present or represented at the meeting, with the restriction that no shareholder neither by himself nor by proxy can vote for a number of shares in excess of one fifth of the shares issued or two fifths of the shares present or represented at the meeting.

In order to take part at the statutory meeting of August 12th, 1983, the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at the registered office of the Fund, 14, rue Aldringen, Luxembourg, or with the following bank:

Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
14, rue Aldringen
LUXEMBOURG
The Board of Directors

AZIENDA AUTONOMA DELLE FERROVIE DELLO STATO

Floating Rate Notes due June 1988
U.S.$100,000,000

The interest rate applicable to the above issue in respect of six months' period of 183 days commencing 30th June 1983 has been fixed at $10\frac{5}{8}$%

so that accordingly the interest payable in respect of such period (calculated on the basis of a year of 360 days for the actual number of days elapsed) will be made on 30th December 1983 at U.S.$540.10 for 10,000.— dollars note and U.S.$5,401.04 for 100,000.— dollars note.

The Fiscal Agent
BANQUE PARIBAS LUXEMBOURG S.A.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT 1948 AND HARZELL LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of SINGLA & COMPANY, Chartered Accountants, of 423 Alexandra Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex at 11.00 a.m. on 19 August 1983 for the purposes mentioned in Sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 5th day of August 1983.

By Order of the Board
P. ANTONIOU, Director

CLUBS

EVE has outlived the others because of a policy of fair play and value for money. Supper from 10-3.30 am. Disco and top musicians, glamorous hostesses, exciting floorshows. 189, Regent St. 01-734 0557.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

First licensing round DENMARK

The Danish Ministry of Energy hereby announces the opening of

The First Round of Licensing

for exploration for and production of hydrocarbons within Danish Territory.

The licensing round covers approximately 74,000 km², in the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, the Baltic Sea, and Danish onshore areas.

Applications for Licences will be accepted during the period ending

at 12.00 noon Monday, October 10, 1983.

Further information concerning the terms of licensing and the preparation of applications, and a map showing the areas offered, the block system etc., are available from:

ENERGIMINISTERIET
29, Strandgade
DK-1401 Copenhagen K.
Telephone: (01) 92 19 00
Telex: 31437 energy dk.

OBITUARY

It is with great sorrow that we must give advice that our dearly beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle and cousin

HERR ADOLF STEINDLING

Director-General and Member of the Board ret. of the
Central Wechsel- und Creditbank Aktiengesellschaft
Bearer of the Order of Merit for the Liberation of Austria

has passed away on Tuesday, 14th June, 1983, at the age of 65 after a fulfilled and ever-active life and also after suffering borne for many years with great dignity and composure. He will continue to be an example to us and shall always be remembered.

In accordance with the wish of the dear deceased the burial has taken place quietly at Vienna.

Rudolfine Steindling
Wife
in the name of the family
Wallmodengasse 10
A 1190 Vienna, Austria

For the many expressions of sympathy our sincerest thanks.

PERSONAL

REMEMBER

a departed friend with a tribute that blooms in lasting happiness for old people. There is no more fitting memorial to a loved name than to link your regard with enduring work for the lonely or frail. Every pound you give towards a Day Centre or medical assistance among the elderly people in great need achieves a great deal thanks to volunteers all over Britain. Please send your gift with the name you wish to commemorate to: The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room FT4M, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior position at Lucas Industries

LUCAS INDUSTRIES has appointed **Dr John Parnaby** group director — manufacturing technology from September. Dr Parnaby will also become a member of the Lucas executive and a director of Joseph Lucas Limited (the management board of the group) on September 5. Dr Parnaby joins Lucas from the diversified products sector of the Dunlop Group where he was general manager — engineering. His role in Dunlop covered the design and installation of manufacturing systems, automated machine systems, CAD, CAM, process and product development as well as the sale of these outside of Dunlop.

★

Mr Ray Dafter, for the past five years energy editor of the Financial Times, has been appointed public and overseas relations adviser at the ELECTRICITY COUNCIL, from November 7. He succeeds Mr **Alan Wheatley** who retires on August 31.

★

Dr Geoffrey Wright has joined PLESSEY ASSESSMENT SERVICES as a consultant engineer. He was with Marconi Space and Defence Systems.

★

Mr Geoff Shouksmith has been appointed production director and **Mr Brian Brenchley** becomes a director of BENHAM AND CO.

★

The Industry Secretary has appointed **Mr Graeme Odgers** as a part-time member of the board of BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION. He is a group managing director of Tarmac.

★

GRANVILLE AND CO has appointed **Mr Simon Day** as south west regional director.

★

SAAB - FAIRCHILD JOINT VENTURE has named **Mr Neil Ciarfalia** as president of Saab-Fairchild Finance Corporation, an organisation set up to arrange financing for the Saab-Fairchild 340 aircraft. Mr Ciarfalia, formerly with GATX Lease Finance in London, will be based at the Windsor, English headquarters of Saab-Fairchild International, the central marketing organisation for the 340 programme. SFFC is jointly owned by Saab-Scania AB of Sweden and Fairchild Industries of Germantown, Md, partners in the Saab-Fairchild Joint Venture

★

Mr Paul McGrane has been appointed marketing director for the NORWICH BREWERY. He was marketing manager for Colman's of Norwich.

★

Mr D. de Bruyne has been elected deputy chairman of OCEAN TRANSPORT & TRADING. Mr de Bruyne joined the Ocean board in 1982 following his retirement as chairman of the committee of managing directors of The Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

★

ALFA ROMEO (GREAT BRITAIN) has appointed **Mr David D. Bates** as parts director. He was with Saab (Great Britain) as after-sales marketing manager.

★

Mr G. R. A. Metcalfe has been appointed group managing director of UMECO HOLDINGS. He was joint managing director of the Bath and Portland Group.

★

Mr A. S. MACDONALD has been appointed a director of CERRO METALS (UK).

★

MGM/UA HOME VIDEO has appointed **Mr John Porter** as sales and marketing director. He was formerly sales and marketing director of CBS/Fox Video.

★

CAYZER, GARTMORE, a subsidiary of the British and Commonwealth Shipping, has appointed **Mr Adrian Collins** and **Mr John Gunn** to the board.

★

Mr Tony Drury has been appointed managing director of WATERLOW PUBLISHERS — publishers of Financial Weekly, Banking World, The Solicitors' Diary and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Directory. He was an assistant general manager with Mercantile Credit, a member of the Barclays Bank Group. He is author of "Finance Houses, Their Development and Role in the Modern Financial Sector."

★

Mr J. P. B. Hadfield has been appointed a regional director of the north west regional board of LLOYDS BANK. He is chairman and managing director of Bass North West and a director of a number of other companies.

★

Mr Malcolm Hornsey has been appointed director of corporate planning and management services at NEGAS. He was controller of planning and management services.

★

Mr Peter B. S. Cooper is appointed group director of communications at AGB RESEARCH, and becomes an associate director of AGB International.

★

The Enrivonment Secretary has appointed **Dr Alan Robertson** vice-chairman of the BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD until September 30 1986. Dr Robertson recently retired from Imperial Chemical Industries where he was a member of the main board and held responsibility for the company's agricultural business and for its Far Eastern territorial interests.

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	■ Hambros Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Al Baraka International	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Heritable & Gen. Trust	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Allied Irish Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	■ Hill Samuel §	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Amro Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	C. Hoare & Co. †	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Henry Ansbacher	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Hongkong & Shanghai	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Arbuthnot Latham	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Kingsnorth Trust Ltd.	11 %
Armco Trust Ltd.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	10 %
Associates Cap. Corp.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Lloyds Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Banco de Bilbao	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Mallinhall Limited	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Bank Hapoalim BM	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Edward Manson & Co.	$10\frac{1}{2}$%
BCCI	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Midland Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Bank of Ireland	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	■ Morgan Grenfell	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Bank Leumi (UK) plc	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	National Bk. of Kuwait	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Bank of Cyprus	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	National Girobank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Bank of Scotland Ω	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	National Westminster	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Banque Belge Ltd.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Norwich Gen. Tst.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Banque du Rhone	$10\frac{1}{2}$%	P. S. Refson & Co.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Barclays Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Roxburghe Guarantee	10 %
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	$10\frac{1}{2}$%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Standard Chartered ‖	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Trade Dev. Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
■ Brown Shipley	10 %	Trustee Savings Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
CL Bank Nederland	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	TCB	10 %
Canada Perm't Trust	$10\frac{1}{2}$%	United Bank of Kuwait	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Castle Court Trust Ltd.	10 %	United Mizrahi Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Cayzer Ltd.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Volkskas Intnl. Ltd.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Cedar Holdings	10 %	Westpac Banking Corp.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
■ Charterhouse Japhet	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Whiteaway Laidlaw	10 %
Choulartons	$10\frac{1}{2}$%	Williams & Glyn's	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Citibank Savings ¶	$10\frac{1}{2}$%	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
Clydesdale Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%	Yorkshire Bank	$9\frac{1}{2}$%
C. E. Coates	10 %		
Comm. Bk. of N. East	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		
Consolidated Credits	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		
Co-operative Bank *	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		
Duncan Lawrie	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		
E. T. Trust	10 %		
Exeter Trust Ltd.	$10\frac{1}{2}$%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	$11\frac{1}{2}$%		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	$11\frac{1}{2}$%		
Robert Fraser	10 %		
Grindlays Bank ‡	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		
■ Guinness Mahon	$9\frac{1}{2}$%		

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
* 7-day deposits 6%, 1-month 6.25%. Short-term £8,000/12-months 8.6%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of: under £10,000 6%, £10,000 up to £50,000 7%, £50,000 and over 8%.
‡ Call deposits £1,000 and over 6%.
‖ 21-day deposits over £7,000 7%.
§ Demand deposits 6%.
¶ Mortgage base rate.
Ω Money market cheque account = 9.25%. Effective annual rate = 9.65%.

LAURENCE GOULD + COMPANY plc

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Plc as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to the address below.

M.J. WEAVER
SECRETARY

Lloyds Bank Plc,
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD code 0903)

Lloyds Bank Plc

TECHNOLOGY

EDITED BY ALAN CANE

PART 1 OF AN EXAMINATION OF CANON—STRIVING TO BECOME A WORLD FORCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

On top of Fuji—aiming for Everest

BY ALAN CANE, RECENTLY IN TOKYO AND FUKUSHIMA

MR RYUZABURO Kaku, president of Canon since 1977, learned business efficiency the hard way. Colleagues tell the story of his early days in Canon's accounting division; slower than the girls in using the soroban, the Japanese abacus, and exasperated by the humdrum routine of tallying sales slips, he despaired of his future with the company. Then he improvised time-and-motion techniques, developed ways of improving his working methods and became the pride of the division.

Apocryphal, perhaps; but Canon's Japanese assembly plants teem with workers all seemingly trying to emulate their president's example. At the Utsunomiya optical lens factory, 256 km north of Tokyo, each employee produced an average of 52 suggestions for improving their work methods last year; one woman employee put forward 345 suggestions.

The innovative skills of Canon's engineers, the enthusiasm of its workforce, and the impressive efficiency of its automated factories underpin an audacious, five year business development plan, now in its early phases.

Canon

Already well respected as a maker of cameras and copiers, Canon is aiming to become one of the world's major information systems companies. Mr Kaku puts it picturesquely: "At present we are on top of Mount Fuji. Now we are aiming for the summit of Everest."

With Western companies like IBM, Xerox and Wang already well established in the office automation market, not to mention Japanese challengers like NEC and Ricoh, Mr Kaku's plans would seem absurdly ambitious if it were not for three factors.

First, to "reach the top of Mount" Fuji, Mr Kaku has already had to revitalise the company once. Its move into pocket calculators in the early 1970s faltered and the company had to suspend a dividend in 1975. Mr Kaku is brutally frank about the reasons; the company's top management lacked coherence and direction.

After he took over as president, Canon's pretax profit figures grew dramatically. At 57, Mr Kaku is young enough and determined enough to see the development plan through to the end. (Senior managers in Canon retire at 65, everybody else at 60.)

Second, the senior management of the company has no illusions about the magnitude of the task ahead, either in financial or business terms. Mr Kaku says: "The time is coming for the real trade wars. Now we have to be prepared to compete against other companies not just in one industry but in a range of industries."

The company, which turned over $2.45bn last year is planning to invest some $2bn over the next five years in research and development and automated plant.

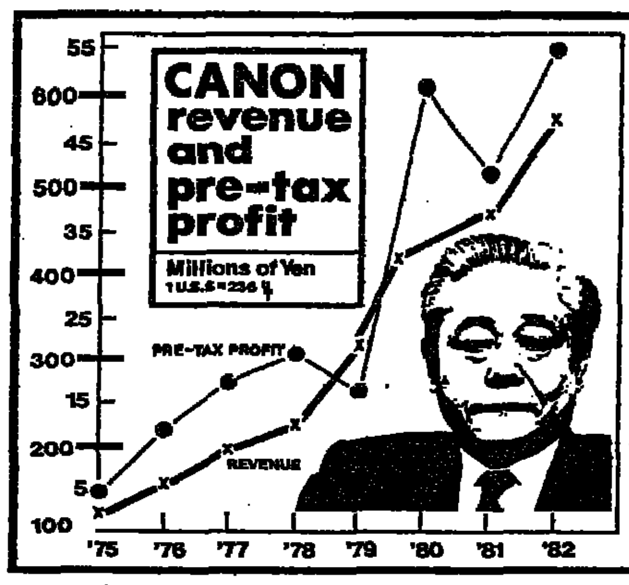
Third, it has secured contracts with Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT), the Japanese telecommunications authority, which could give it a commanding share of the market for office and home information systems in Japan—and overseas.

Canon's ambition to become a world major or "blue chip" corporation was born out of that traumatic experience in 1975; Mr Kaku envisaged two phases each of three years beginning in 1976.

"During the first stage, our internal organisation was streamlined and our business was built up to enable us, as a listed company, to bear our social responsibilities. In the second stage, we aimed to form a perfect organisation which would enable us to develop products of unbeatable quality and performance, timed exactly to meet a demand from consumers, and supply them at reasonable cost through an efficient sales and service system to the world market."

But world markets mean substantial exports and Canon is well aware that that means trade friction. Mr Kaku's answer, well illustrated by the decision, announced only a few weeks ago, to manufacture plain paper photocopiers in France, is to share technology with companies abroad while creating social benefits.

Mr Kaku said: "We are well aware that unemployment is a major problem; but we can go to each of these countries where there is trade friction and offer opportunities for employment."



Inset: Mr Kaku aiming to lead Canon into the big time

Canon's camera business is still highly labour intensive. Workers are dedicated to the company and its products

PRODUCT divisions: cameras (conventional and video), business machines (reprographics and electronic office products) and optical products (silicon chip fabrication equipment).

Management philosophy: "Health first" for all employees—the story goes that Canon's founder Dr Mitarai used to arrive early to examine the faces of his senior staff for signs of illness.

Merit rather than seniority as the basis for promotion: "Some of our executives are not university graduates" President Kaku notes.

The "new family" principle where all employees are treated equally—all factory workers from the general manager downwards wear identical overalls, for example.

The methods: Development of its own manufacturing technology, the Canon Production System, aimed at cutting manufacturing costs and giving the company a competitive edge.

Powerful management emphasis of cost-effectiveness; recently all employees were asked to concentrate on nine ways in which the management throughout the company could become more productive.

The inauguration of a system of product groups with marked autonomy functioning as profit centres.

Or in the words of the official announcement: "Canon aims to make an important contribution to social and economic development on an international level, at the same time advancing the company's strategy of international co-operation and understanding. The plan allows for the exchange of technology and localised manufacturing."

But to be fair both to Canon and its competitors in Japan, these are hardly unique approaches or objectives. Japanese manufacturing companies are distinguished by the superb quality of their products. Trade friction problems are common to them all.

Asked, therefore, what will make Canon unique not only among the camera and business machinery companies which it has seen as its chief competitors up to now, but in the systems and computer industries, Mr Kaku emphasised three factors:

- The quality of innovation which it has shown and sustained over the years.
- The development of its own production technology which should enable it to exploit the benefits of its innovation more rapidly and at less cost than the competition.
- The continued development of a strong marketing network.

Clearly, therefore, the lessons of 1975 have been well learned, when weak marketing was costing Canon hard-earned advantages as competitors copied its innovations before the company secured an adequate return on its investment.

Canon today seems financially secure: its net sales in 1982 amounted to $2.45bn on which income before tax was $233,903. With substantial current assets ($1.9bn) and a ratio of short term loans to equity of about 50 per cent (which Mr Kaku is anxious to maintain), the balance sheet does not seem unduly stressed, supporting the company's view that the massive investment needed over the next five years can be successfully funded partly out of income and partly by raising new money in the market.

The pattern of Canon's sales by product in 1982 illustrates well the company's need to diversify. Sales of single lens reflex cameras, the touchstone of Canon's early success and products for which Canon has a reputation equal to the best, slumped by 18 per cent, while sales of "compacts," simpler cameras with separate lens and shutter mechanism, grew by 52 per cent, reflecting, perhaps, changes in fashion in the camera buying public.

Copiers and electronic equipment, the heartland of Canon's new business, grew by 28 per cent and 35 per cent respectively; sales of optical equipment, including mask aligners used to manufacture silicon chips, fell by one per cent.

With its well-received photocopiers and now microcomputers and word processors, Canon is clearly now shifting its centre of gravity away from the camera business. But it would be too simple to assume that the electronic office products market is its chief goal.

According to Mr Kaku, the products of the future — products which Canon is well qualified to create—will be home information systems.

It has already won a contract with the Japanese telecommunications authority, NTT, to create a high speed facsimilie machine for use in a home publishing trial the NTT intends to initiate next year. Secured against the Japanese electronics majors, the contract could open a substantial domestic and international market in these home information machines to the company.

The company is also working on a home computer terminal to interface with the Japanese Captains viewdata service; it is known to be working with Fuji Bank, the most profitable in Japan, on home banking systems. Mr Masamichi Torigai, general manager of Fuji's development division, says: "When Canon produces a new machine I unhesitatingly take the first in my office." Fuji are a major user of Canon photocopiers and fiche machines.

The picture is therefore of a company seeking the heights of Everest with all the right climbing gear — management determination, adequate finance, technological know-how and product quality. The second and last article in this series will discuss Canon's claim to technological and manufacturing superiority.

Part 2 of the Canon story will appear on Wednesday.

Materials

Depositing oxides

ERA at Leatherhead revealed a technique for depositing metallic oxides in thin glass-like layers of high adhesion on commonly used engineering materials and alloys. The coatings show good resistance to chemical attack and abrasion and reduce friction of mating metal surfaces. 0372

Robotics

Mysteries revealed

THOSE in the dark about the basics of robots or their economic implications in the factory might be interested in reading a new book from IFS (Publications) called Robots at Work—a practical Guide for Engineers and Managers.

The book is written by John Hartley, the Japan-based correspondent of Industrial Robot magazine and covers the whole field including types, applications, cost effectiveness, and the newer areas of sensors and the linking of robots to flexible manufacturing systems.

He also takes a look at the design of products for manufacture by robot and the question of safety.

The book costs £25 in the UK ($50 in the U.S. and elsewhere) and is obtainable from IFS at 35, High Street, Kempston, Bedford (0234 853605).

Computing

Software aid Engineering

GENRAD acquired Cirrus Computers of Fareham and announced Hilo 2, some computer-aided engineering software for logic circuit design which was developed at Brunel University by the team now at Cirrus, Maidenhead. 0628 39181.

Motoring

Picking up signals

HONG KONG cars will have an "electronic plate" on their undersides to pick up signals allowing owners to be charged for being in congested areas. Logica, Plessey Controls, Marconi and MVA Consultancy Group are in the pilot experiment.

Television

Flat screen pocket TV

SUWA SEIKOSHA and EPSON CORPORATION in Japan announced the development of a pocket colour TV measuring only 160 x 80 x 28mm based on a flat, LCD colour display. No plans for UK marketing yet. London, 01-902 8892.

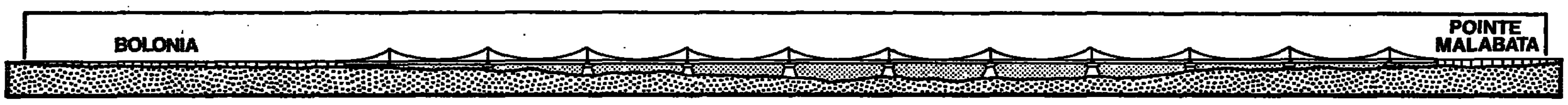
Printer

Low cost daisy from Brother

BROTHER (Manchester) launched a low-cost two-colour daisywheel printer, HR-15, that offers super and sub-scripts, single - button text reprint (from a 3k buffer) and proportional spacing. Price is about £500. 061 330 6531.

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

A bridge too far . . .?



One of the options for a fixed crossing of the Gibraltar Strait: Freeman Fox and Partners' eleven-tower suspension bridge stretches 2km between each pier and reaches a daunting 250 metres to the sea bed at the deepest point of the crossing. Below: the three crossing points examined by the company's engineers.

SOFTLY, SOFTLY, one of the civil engineering community's long-cherished dreams is taking shape in terms of practical action. This is the Afroroute, the building of a permanent link across the Strait of Gibraltar from Europe to Africa bridging an historical, social and economic chasm that has lasted millenia.

But if the 14 km strait is something more than a small step for the engineers it is nothing less than a giant leap for the international community—politicians, businessmen, financiers and citizens alike.

Last month the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Geneva edged forward a little down this path by accepting an evaluation report submitted by the UN's Economic Commissions for Europe (ECE) and Africa (ECA).

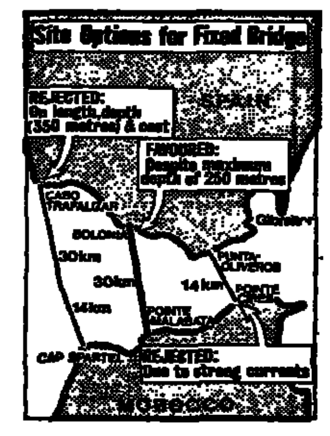
A Unesco resolution asked the commissions to continue their work on the project with other interested organisations and governments concerned, principally Spain and Morocco.

Essentially this involves a continuing study of the technical options, cost evaluations and the likely economic impact of the proposed link. But Unesco's demonstration of its continuing interest has raised hopes in many quarters.

Dampening the enthusiasm of fixed-link supporters, however, Unesco also approved the further analysis of the less costly path, that of further expanding the already substantial trans-Mediterranean roll-on, roll-off shipping services. While some observers believe these could be complementary to a fixed link, attracting trade which could switch to it, others say the cost-saving of improved shipping facilities could subvert the link altogether.

Supporters of a fixed link, which could be sited about 20 miles west of Gibraltar, say it would massively boost intercontinental trade and attract business and industry to underdeveloped South-West Europe and North Africa. This Western Mediterranean axis would in turn divert resources from the heavily congested Northern European - Eastern Mediterranean axis, already served by dense rail links and by the Trans - European Motorway (TEM) currently under construction from Poland to Istanbul.

The extent of Unesco interest in this radical shift in Europe's communications equilibrium, and the implications for North-South trade development, was confirmed in July last year when the organisation called on the ECE and ECA to identify problems in linking the European road network to existing



or planned trans-African highways.

In January, at its Addis Ababa headquarters, the ECA with the ECE and Spanish and Moroccan diplomats drafted terms of reference for four engineering consultants.

On the basis of the engineers' reports the ECA and ECE submitted the recommendations that were endorsed by Unesco last month.

The key points were:

- Choice of a technical option was "premature" and further investigations must be held into the feasibility and cost of the options available as well as the economic merits of the project, to be monitored and co-ordinated by the ECE and the ECA.
- Schemes for a causeway, submerged tunnel or tunnel on supports were rejected. However, alternative proposals for a rail-only bored tunnel, a bridge on fixed supports, or a pontoon bridge, should be studied further "as a matter of priority." (Economic assessments suggested that a floating suspension bridge could be completed by the year 2000, a fixed-support suspension bridge by 2007 or a bored tunnel by 2010.)
- The implications for international transport policy should be examined by three new bodies—a "high authority" of African states on routes linked to the project, a steering committee of European experts to examine road networks and transport problems in South-West Europe, and an umbrella project management committee representing all states concerned on both continents.
- Spain and Morocco should draft with the ECE and ECA a technical research plan to be backed by international aid.
- A prerequisite for the project will be an international treaty between Spain and Morocco, defining interests and covered by a guarantee fund, together with an international insurance convention on risk-coverage and liability in the zone.

Further data-collation and analysis of goods and passenger traffic is essential before the viability of a fixed link, or alternatively an improvement in maritime services, is properly assessed.

Improved road and rail networks at each end of the link would be "an indispensable condition" for the fixed link to proceed.

These recommendations are in themselves a tall order for both the UN agencies and the governments concerned to deliver. Nevertheless, the fact that Unesco has not ruled the project out of court at least leaves hope for link supporters.

The answer to whether the Afroroute will, like its northern European cousin the English Channel fixed link, remain a bridge too far is a long way off yet.

ALAN ELLIS

CONTRACTS

£64m work in Nigeria

FRENCH-BASED company SGE-NIGERIA has won contracts totalling over £64m.

Work has started on the 140 km long Kukawa to Damask road in Borno state, in the far north-east corner of Nigeria. Costing FFr 350m (about £30m), it is due to be oompleted in three years. This contract is 80 per cent financed by credits for which an agreement was signed in London on May 31. An advance payment was made in the middle of July, enabling installation work to start immediately.

The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Public Works has placed a FFr 400m (£33m) order to start work on the 80 km long Bauchi-Tafawa-Balewa road, to be completed in two years. In Bauchi state, where SGE-N is alreday working, road construction will start at the end of the rainy season. The Ministry has also placed a FFr 17m (£1.6m) contract with SGE-N for reconstruction of the Enugu airport access road, which must be completed by the end of the year.

Contracts totalling over £13m have been awarded to WILLIAM MOSS CONSTRUCTION. Work includes an extension to the head office of Mercantile and General Reinsurance.

GLC clashes with Government on planning

A MAJOR row between the Greater London Council and the Government—perhaps the first battle in the forthcoming war over the abolition of the Metropolitan authorities—has erupted over the Greater London Development Plan. It may well end in the High Court.

Earlier this year councillors at County Hall announced their intention to amend the GLDP —the capital's planning framework. The changes were to have virtually banned office development from areas on the fringe of Central London, including the whole of the South Bank, where highly controversial schemes such as Hays Wharf, Coin Street, and Vauxhall Cross, totalling hundreds of thousands of square feet, are in the pipeline.

But last week the DoE wrote to the GLC saying it would not be allowed to amend the plan. The letter said that in the light of forthcoming legislation to abolish the Council giving the authority powers to amend the GLDP would be "inappropriate."

Angry County Hall politicians are planning to challenge the decision in the High Court. To succeed in such an action, the GLC will have to prove that Ministers have acted "unreasonably."

The Greater London Development Plan is something of an anomaly in Britain's planning system and has a chequered history. It was first submitted in 1969 (based on the results of the 1961 census), before the Structure Plan system was enacted nationwide. As a result, the powers to amend it were not present automatically, as they were with the County Structure Plans which came several years later.

However, the GLDP was not actually approved by the Secretary of State until seven years later, in 1976. This was mainly because the original proposals included the highly controversial inner ring roads, which aroused sufficient popular opposition to be thrown out in the final Plan.

Although the GLC has a point in saying that the GLDP is obsolete and does not reflect the substantial economic and social changes which have taken place over the past 20 years, it remains the legal planning framework for the capital. Borough plans have to conform to it, and in cases where planning applications are referred to the GLC, its decision to give directions or not must also accord with the GLDP—or be invalidated on appeal.

This is why the GLC is so anxious to have powers to amend the Plan—powers enjoyed by the counties, albeit subject to the ultimate approval of the Environment Secretary. The present GLC leadership wanted to enact, through the changes it proposed, its anti-offices policy by decimating the list of areas which now appears in the GLDP as "preferred office locations."

Apart from places like the South Bank, Paddington, Marylebone, Liverpool Street and City fringes like the Royal Mint site and parts of Tower Hamlets, they would also have virtually banned further offices from the major suburban centres — Croydon, Kingston, Wembley, Uxbridge, Ealing and Sutton.

They also wanted curbs on major retail development in some suburbs, substituting a network of "community areas," where all policies would cater to the needs of various community groups and all minorities.

The Government's stance means that the GLDP is now unlikely to be amended until 1990, because of the lengthy procedures involved and this is bound to cause grave concern among GLC planners. But all the DoE is prepared to do, in the light of the political commitment to abolish the GLC and the absence of a clear idea as to who or what may succeed it, is to make Regulations concerning the borough plans. These plans have also been different from other local plans and the provisions to bring them closer into line with the rest of the country will be laid before Parliament "in the near future."

MIRA BAR-HILLEL

Civils outlook 'pessimistic'

Britain's civil engineers today report a pessimistic outlook for the industry with fears of more bad news to come when the Government reviews public expenditure in the autumn.

Presenting the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors' quarterly workload survey, Mr Derek Gaulter, the FCEC director general, warned: "There are going to be some very difficult decisions taken by the Government in the autumn. Our efforts will be aimed at trying to minimise the effects on capital spending."

Earlier, Mr Gaulter emphasised that the Government's attempts last winter to reduce the effects of underspending on capital projects by local authorities had proved only a temporary filip to the industry.

The new survey demonstrated that the current low level of activity remained unchanged, with few signs of growth or a return to satisfactory workloads.

Mr Gaulter added: "The need to expand capital spending does not seem to have borne fruit and the hopes we had six months ago are not borne out at all by the new figures."

One small light on the horizon had been the Government's agreement to allow Departments to carry over 5 per cent of their capital expenditure budgets. Previously, Government ministries had been required to spend their entire allocation or forfeit the funds.

The FCEC will attempt to press for a large percentage of carry-over when its representatives meet Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, shortly. They intend to point out that underspending levels over the past six years have averaged between 8 and 12 per cent, with the motorway programme in one year falling 25 per cent behind its capital allocation.

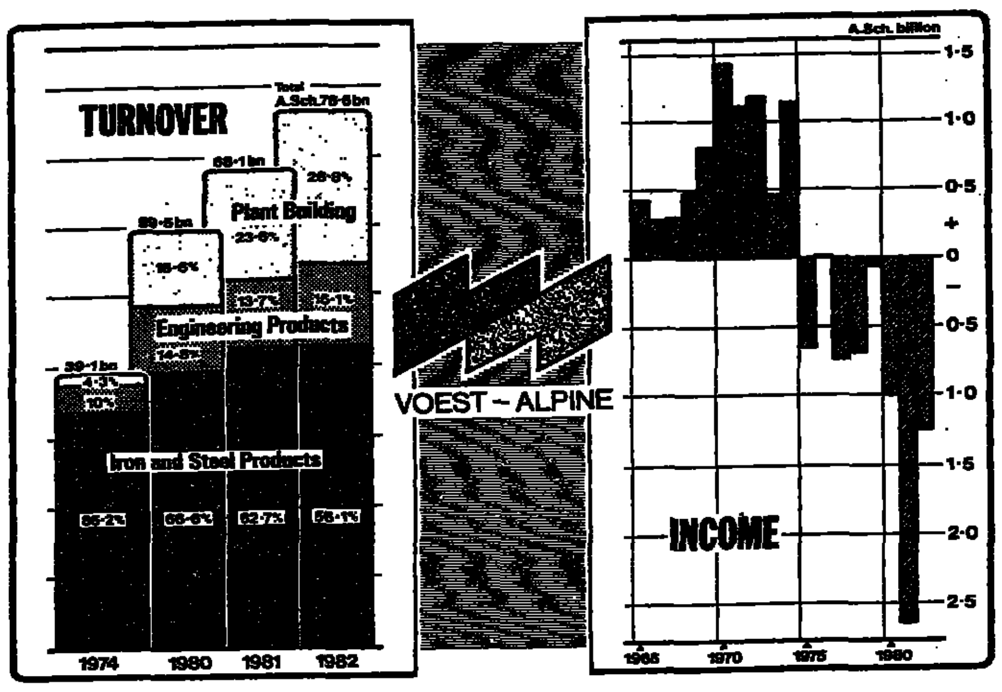
IVO DAWNAY

THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

Voest-Alpine

Diversity offers a lifeline

Ian Rodger reports on the importance of new markets to Austria's steelmaker



MEASURED by financial performance, Voest-Alpine of Austria seems to be in the same mess as every other state-owned steel company in Europe. It is suffering enormous losses and survives only because of big government subsidies.

But unlike many other public sector steelmakers, Voest has been working hard in the past *decade to secure its future* through diversification of both products and markets. There are still few signs of a return to overall profitability, but the group has been surprisingly successful at finding new markets for steel and in developing new businesses.

Despite the worldwide steel crisis, Voest's steel output has declined less than 5 per cent since 1974 to just under 4m tonnes, and the export portion has been maintained at 70 per cent.

This achievement is all the more impressive because Voest, conscious of the difficulties of steelmakers in neighbouring EEC countries, has cut its steel exports to those countries from 1.7m tonnes in 1974 to less than 1m tonnes last year.

Most of the slack has been taken up by exports to eastern European countries, to which the non-aligned Austrians have easy access, and third world countries. In 1981, for example, the group won a $1bn contract to supply 800,000 tonnes of seamless pipe to the Soviet Union. At a time when most pipe makers are suffering from a dearth of orders, Voest's new mill is sure to be 80 per cent occupied for the next four years.

"You can't save a company just by cutting manning and production," Heribert Apfalter, Voest's president, says. "Even *in difficult times*, we try to get turnover growth of 15 per cent."

Voest's main achievement in the past few years has been the successful development of its process plant contracting business, which now ranks among the world leaders with an order book of over $2bn and a reasonable profit record.

The group has had a foot in this field since the early 1950s when it perfected the revolutionary LD (for Linz-Donawitz, its two main steelmaking sites) process for converting iron into liquid steel which cut several *hours off* the time needed for making steel in large quantities.

Though not interested in building LD plants for others at the outset, it became so in the early 1960s—but not out of any great strategic foresight.

"It just happened," Apfalter says. "We had a big construction department building things for us and were looking for other ways to employ it."

The big expansion did not come until the last 10 years, though, during which time the plant building division's turnover rose from less than $100m, 4.3 per cent of the group total, to $931.3m, about 20 per cent of the total, last year.

Like all plant contractors, Voest has had a few disasters, notably in Africa, and there is a certain amount of nail-biting going on at the Linz headquarters over the big Libyan project.

Also, as competition has intensified in this field, profits have been harder to earn. (See accompanying article.)

Voest suspects that the plant building business will become more competitive and less buoyant in the next few years and so is embarking on further diversification.

Perhaps predictably, its attention is focused mainly on electronics. It has launched two microcircuit manufacturing businesses and is trying to develop factory automation expertise around its small machine tool division. A next step might be to manufacture some automobile parts, such as pumps and fuel injection *systems*, that increasingly combine electronics and metallurgy.

Apfalter believes a move by Voest into this seemingly overcrowded field could well succeed.

"My talks with big electronic companies indicate that they are not keen to get into the mechanical side. On the contrary, they want a mechanical supplier. But I do not think this is a good route for us. Co-operative ventures are not often profitable, so we think we should do everything ourselves."

He laments that Europe consumes 15 per cent of the world's electronic goods, but makes only 6 per cent of them. He acknowledges that it is a highly risky business, "but the risk is much less than it is in steel. We see it as the only way to survive."

Indeed, Voest still has a major struggle on its hands to bring its steel division back to profitability.

The toughest problem is VEW, the special steel maker *that Voest was obliged by the* Austrian Government to acquire in 1973.

"Ten years too late," Apfalter says.

Europe's special steel industry has been extremely depressed in the past few years, partly because of soft markets for construction and industrial tools and partly because of big capacity expansions in France, West Germany and Sweden. Britain's special steel industry, concentrated in Sheffield, has been all but wiped out by severe competition and ruinous prices.

Voest is now working on a third rationalisation programme for VEW, which lost Sch 2.05bn ($108m) last year. Apfalter believes capacity should come down to 170,000 tonnes compared with a current 200,000 tonnes and 300,000 tonnes in 1975. Already, 15 plants have been *closed and 5,000 workers* made redundant.

The group's other problem steelworks is also in Styria, at Donawitz, where long products are made. Markets for these products have become *much* more competitive in recent years because of the growth of mini mills, particularly in the neighbouring Brescia region of Italy.

The bright spot in the group's steel business is the Linz works, which makes flat products. Capacity was cut from 4m tonnes to 3m tonnes in 1977 and all steel is made in modern LD furnaces and is continually cast. The works is said to be profitable.

Despite the recovery at Linz, the group tumbled deeper and deeper into loss in the early 1980s, and its balance sheet became increasingly stretched. At the end of 1982 Voest had net debt of roughly $2.4bn and only $750m of shareholders' funds, and so it sought its second direct subsidy from the Austrian Government, amounting to $30m, after $125m in 1981. Subsidies will be needed in the next two years before the group is back on its feet.

Although it is a state-owned company, Voest has a long tradition of profitability, and Apfalter is *obviously sad* that the group has had to resort to direct Government aid. "We have to live with our lame ducks. I would like to throw them out, but everything is a bit more difficult in Styria."

He also points out that Voest has had considerably less government aid than most European state-owned steel companies. "It is our goal to maintain ourselves without government aid and I think we can do it again."

Key elements of a flexible strategy

INDUSTRIEANLAGENBAU *means industrial plant builder,* and it is the name that Voest-Alpine has given to its fast-growing process plant construction business.

Klaus Czempirek, executive vice-president, attributes the division's success to *date* to three policies.

First, the group quickly recognised that it should offer to provide project management, plant management and personnel training to its customers in addition to the relatively straightforward business of building the plant.

A few years ago, the typical customer for a process plant builder was a technically sophisticated company in an industrialised country. Now it is likely to be an unsophisticated company *in an developing country. Only* 20 per cent of Voest's orders come from Western Europe and the Americas.

The new customers are likely to want a project to be done on a turnkey basis and, in Voest's view, if the plant *is to be successful,* the lead contractor should often insist on managing it for the first year or so and on training local staff.

Second, Voest recognises that a new plant is likely to have too much capacity for local consumption in the first years of its operation. However, operating at less than capacity may jeopardise the feasibility of the project. Voest often undertakes to sell surplus production elsewhere. It also accepts that some plant buyers may prefer to pay in kind rather than in money.

When Voest began accepting barter arrangements, it would simply pass on the goods to other traders. "But we were criticised for trying to foist Comecon goods on Austrians, so we decided to get into the trading business ourselves," Helmuth Hamminger, a vice-president of the plant building division, says.

At various times, the group has found itself selling large quantities of tobacco, lingerie and plimsolls, enlisting its 42 sales offices around the world to find outlets. This Japanese-style trading activity now accounts for about a tenth of the division's turnover and is growing rapidly.

Competition in the plant building business is so intense these days that most contractors have to offer these services, but Voest claims an edge.

"It's part of our publicity," Czempirek says. "We identify with it."

Voest's third policy is to be open-minded about technology. Although it developed the LD process, it was also the first company to take out a licence on an improved version of the process developed by two competitors. Now it is a major supplier of the competitive process.

It continues to develop its own steelmaking technologies, notably of a continuous casting process, but it is also alert to the developments of others. In 1979, it acquired the licence to market East Germany's leading plasma technology for converting iron to steel and it has recently taken over Korf Engineering of West Germany, a leader in the technology of reducing iron ore directly to pure iron.

Although its base is in steel plant construction, Voest's plant building division recognises that the demand for metallurgical plant is likely to decline in the future, and so it has broadened its product lines through technology licences and acquisitions to include a wide range of chemical, power, food and pulp and paper plants.

Czempirek says that 60 per cent of the division's new orders last year were in technologies that Voest did not have five years ago. He believes the best prospects in the next few years will be in food, textile and medical plants because of the growing needs of developing countries in these areas.

Management abstracts

Who Needs the Office of the Future?
H. L. Poppel in **Harvard** *Business Review* (U.S.), Nov/Dec 82.
Presents evidence of non-productive work among "knowledge workers", discusses how office automation—broadly, conferencing/personal processing (e.g. interactive computing) / information transfer and retrieval/activity management — can help. Suggests how management can gain employee acceptance of automation, and outlines obstacles.

The Whittling Away of Middle Management
D. Clutterbuck in **International Management** (UK), Nov 82.
Discerns a world-wide trend towards reducing the numbers of middle managers; details cutbacks in named organisations and the views of top managements on the effects; points out that the impact varies by country and industry; suggests that the process will continue, leading to fewer (and more functionally competent) middle managers.

A Risk-Management Approach to Product Liability
R. E. Mayer in **Foresight** (UK), Nov 82.
Traces the history of product-liability legislation; examines how insurance, both purchased and internal (via "retention funding"), can help and notes some difficulties; discusses the risk *manager's responsibility* and the work that should be included in his review of "a products programme".

The Importance of Strategic Leadership
L. T. Hosmer in **The Journal of Business Strategy**, Vol 3, No. 2. (U.S.).
Reviews behavioural models and theories of leadership, relates them to strategy theory, stresses the need for a strategic leader with the task of inspiring direction and purpose for strategy implementation and achievement by all members of an organisation; sees this as the true responsibility of the general manager.

These abstracts are condensed from the abstracting journals published by Anbar Management Publications. Licensed copies of the original articles may be obtained at £3 each, including VAT and p+p (cash with order) from Anbar, PO Box 23, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8DJ.

THE ARTS

Maxwell Davies/Albert Hall

Max Loppert

Peter Maxwell Davies' *Sinfonia concertante*, a masterly 28-minute stretch of "pure music" for wind quintet, string orchestra, and timpani, was given a first performance at the Proms on Friday by its commissioning body the Academy of St Martin's. I place the phrase "pure music" in quotation marks, partly because (as Wilfrid Mellers has never stopped insisting) there's really no such thing; partly because the new work, on its own terms a lucidly proposed three-movement structure on a classical model, does in fact claim links with other works, other points of reference outside the immediate framework of the *Sinfonia* itself.

As the composer told us at a pre-Prom talk, he intended something of a departure from recent large-orchestral preoccupations. This is the first part of an intended chamber-orchestra triptych (the middle work, *Into the Labyrinth*, with tenor soloist, is already complete), in which the common aim is to be one of, as it were, getting to grips with musical argument itself. The heady delights of orchestral instrumentation on a large canvas are abjured (notably the tuned percussion that in the two Maxwell Davies symphonies summons such an enchanted vista of marine landscape); the ability to sustain large structures over long ranges is subjected to its most basic test.

And yet the trilogy is intended, quite as much, as a fresh examination of possibilities—of life in the Orkneys (the subject of the *Labyrinth* text), of the raw material of music itself. Certainly, the feeling is strong of a musical discourse complete in itself yet enriched and extended by external pressures and influences; it adds to the work's compelling impact.

This is, indeed, a compelling work, with a sweep to its unfolding that makes for mounting exhilaration. At first one is absorbed, on the simplest level, by the easy brilliance with which Maxwell Davies has re-deployed his 18th century model, by the naturalness and distinctness with which soloists promote and combine their utterances; the interplay between the three sound "poles" (the timpani acting at times almost as a subversive agent) of the outer *allegro* movements builds up a marvellously exciting internal momentum. Soon one begins to be aware of the ways in which music plays out its drama around and about, rarely (but then magically) upon, the tonal-modal centre of F; the quiet equivocations on the subject with which both movements end suggest goals that will require further fulfilment.

The middle *Andante*, clear in external shape, proved on Friday more elusive in disclosing its inner thoughts. It may be that this part of the *Sinfornia* was least well accommodated by the Albert Hall acoustics (which could also have answered for the relative imbalances of solo lines—from my seat the bassoon tended to be submerged by the rumbustious horn, the flute and oboe by the mockingly elaborate clarinet). One should also expect future readings to dig out rather more in the characterisation of the various levels than was here managed by the Academy under Neville Marriner. Few new works as complex as this yield quite so much immediate pleasure.

Das Lied von der Erde/Albert Hall

Andrew Clements

Ever since Ferrier and Bruno Walter wrang the last drops of pathos out of Mahler's song-symphony, *Das Lied von der Erde* has been one of the most powerful weapons in the armoury of every great mezzo and contralto. Included in a Saturday Prom with Janet Baker as one of the soloists, it guaranteed a full house and a significant Albert Hall Occasion.

This time, however, the chemistry went awry. John Pritchard, who had previously taken the BBC Symphony Orchestra through an elegant and efficient account of Schubert's fifth symphony, kept Mahler's music on a sensible, moderate course; the orchestra furnished some notably beautiful solo playing set off by uncluttered textures. The singing of both soloists was likewise clear and straightforward. William Lewis, a late replacement for Hermann Winkler, had no trouble overriding the fiercest tuttis; Dame Janet was by no means in her most comfortable or richest voice, but she phrased with enormous care.

Yet it was such care that undercut the emotional power of the performance. Mr Lewis always seemed to be holding something in reserve, tonally and emotionally, placing rather than savouring each phrase, Pritchard's avoidance of extremes showed great consideration for his singers but deprived the audience of some of *Das Lied's* most characteristic moments—the Wagnerian exuberance of the opening for example, and the more delicate *chinoiserie*. Certainly one heard detail one had rarely heard before, but at a cost.

Dame Janet has more than once produced the charge to transform an ordinary worthy performance into something memorable this time she did not. These were several beautiful moments; few than usual though. The final "Abschied" began promisingly, commendably restrained, but the clinching surge of the final stanza failed to materialise, ruffled by curious verbal inflections; it is not often that one reaches the end of *Das Lied von der Erde* with so little inclination to give in to tears.

James Tait Black Memorial Book Prizes

The winners of the James Tait Black Book Prizes for works published in 1982 are Bruce Chatwin for his novel, *On the Black Hill*, and Richard Ellmann for his biography, *James Joyce*.

On the Black Hill is published by Jonathan Cape and *James Joyce* by Oxford University Press.

The James Tait prizes are given annually for the best novel (or work of that nature) and the best biography (or work of that nature) published during the previous year.

RSC/NatWest tour starts in October

Sheila Hancock is to lead 18 Royal Shakespeare Company actors and musicians on a tour of 22 towns and villages in England and Northern Ireland.

Starting October 10, the tour will feature *Romeo and Juliet* directed by John Caird and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Sheila Hancock. In addition, Edward Bond's play *Derek*, directed by Sara Pia Anderson, will be staged as an occasional morning performance for parents with children.

The tour is sponsored by the National Westminster Bank and subsidised by the Arts Council.

Architecture

Colin Amery

RIBA recognises the best of British

The announcement of this year's Royal Institute of British Architects awards coincides with the recent arrival of a new president of the institute, Michael Manser. Best known for his attempts to blame planners, officials and other evil forces for the low standards of architecture, Mr Manser carries the banner for the architectural profession. This year he asked critics to look at the RIBA awards in a "discerning and constructive way."

Good architecture has always happened despite controls and restrictions and there is no point in pretending that the responsibility for bad architecture lies anywhere else but on the drawing boards of the profession.

The awards are presented to give recognition to "outstanding examples of current architecture." There are six award winners this year and 25 commendations. Selection is made by 13 regionally based juries, mostly architects but including a few laymen. In East Anglia there are two winners—Robinson College in Cambridge by the Scottish firm of architects, Gillespie, Kidd and Coia, and a sweet factory for Trebor at Colchester by Arup Associates.

Of these two winners the new Cambridge College is by far the most interesting. Although the jury points out the "stark severity" of these brick walls they seem to have been seduced by the overall adventurousness of the design. And so they should be. Robinson College has grown out of Gillespie, Kidd and Coia's serious tradition of good modern buildings that carry considerable intellectual weight.

Unlike many less well conceived structures Robinson College is not afraid to play all kinds of idiosyncratic games with the spectator — throwing out clues and hints that reveal signs of the influence of Mackintosh, le Corbusier and a Cambridge tradition of collegiate brick construction.

The other winners lack the historical intelligence of Robinson College but all convey a quality of careful worthiness. They are the City Art Centre in Edinburgh, converted from a warehouse by the City Architect; Galleries for the Ulster Folk Museum — steel boxes by Ferguson and McIlbreen well sited in woodland; a very handsome swimming pool at Elswick near Newcastle with lots of glazing by the Napper Collerton Partnership; a little primary school by the County architect for Hampshire with an internal garden and aviary — a delightfully scaled place for young children.

Aboyne Castle, Aberdeenshire—a compact new version of a formerly ruined baronial pile

None of the award winners is earth-shaking or likely to be the listed buildings of tomorrow, but they do show that the profession performs well.

Perhaps what British architects do best is to respond carefully to the vernacular tradition. I thought the most distinguished commendation — by a long chalk — was a conversion of a barn and cottage at Pytchley, Northamptonshire, by the architects Aldington, Craig and Collinge. Peter Aldington is an outstandingly good architect with an understanding of the vernacular and an intense feeling for gardens and landscape. He has made a small house into an instructive architectural experience which is particularly successful because of his sympathetic handling of natural materials.

It is amazing to see a new Scottish castle at all, let alone as a winner of one of these prizes. Aboyne Castle in Aberdeenshire is a rebuild of part of a huge baronial pile. Lord Aboyne's architects Robert Hurd and Partners have worked on the outside of the castle in the 17th century idiom: pinnacles, turrets and small windows. With its flag flying, this proud example of the new baronial style has lots of lessons for architects.

An exhibition displaying all the award winning designs will be touring the country and starts off at the RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London, October 11.

London has long lacked a good architectural guidebook, unlike New York where the guide produced by the American Institute of Architects has always been invaluable. In Los Angeles the guide is good but the maps so awful that I once hurled it out of the car on a frustrated search for a Frank Lloyd Wright house in Pasadena.

Now London has a new and very good one. Called *A Guide to the Architecture of London* it is by two architects, Edward Jones and Christopher Woodward, and is published in paperback by Weidenfeld and Nicolson price £8.50. It is a very practical and sensible guide, lacking the wit of Ian Nairns London or the poetic insights of so much of the writing of John Betjeman. But is comprehensive and up to date. There are 900 entries organised in sections, each one related to a large scale map.

Each section is arranged chronologically and the authors are often better at writing about the most recent buildings than they are at regurgitating the facts of history. They are not afraid to make judgments and on the whole are highly critical of the contribution of post-war architects to the city.

They are right to point out that we do not know whether concrete cleans as well as Portland stone and that far too many City office buildings are "sub-standard." I thought that they should have named the architects who restored so many of the Wren churches after the war, particularly as they are often critical of the "bourgeois" modern interiors of some of them.

Maps of the great estates and a chronological map of the London square explain the low density residential nature of so much of London.

I feel you will always need a Pevsner in London but this book with its maps and endless photographs is enjoyable to use—perceptive in its observations and perfect for an August walk.

Cowardice/Ambassadors

Michael Coveney

In a weird and bumpy first play, Sean Mathias re-writes the legend of Noël Coward and Gertrude Lawrence as the tale of two South London showbiz urchins who never made it across the tracks. Boy and Babe are brother and sister, locked in an incestuous impasse while engaged in interminable rehearsals of a Coward play, "Public Death," which Boy is receiving in the manner of Rosemary Brown recording the posthumous doodles of Brahms and Beethoven.

Babe has sacrificed a modest career as a rep actress in order to minister to the suburban ravings of her doomed brother. Their lodgings in Peckham Rye are a grotesque folly (designed by Hayden Griffin) of a theatre, with tatty traverse curtains, footlights, stage costumes, a baby grand and supplies of champagne. The play they rehearse at first light each morning is a palpably awful mélange of the balcony scene for Elyot and Amanda, with insistent recourse to such predictable tags as the Taj Mahal, "On a clear day" (from *Hay Fever*) and assorted Cowardian insults.

The promising level of pastiche in the first of Martin Duncan's three songs evaporates the minute Ian McKellen as Boy stops croaking and starts speaking. Mr Mathias's text is an object lesson in how not to write in the shadow of superior example: Coward is all about rhythm and pace, not, as is often erroneously supposed, posture and self-indulgence.

Anthony Page's direction does nothing to remedy the play's faults. It just allows for a gradual descent into the melodramatic quagmire as Mr McKellen abandons the initially interesting tight-rope walk between pouting, Cowardian efficiency and self-lacerating introspection. Janet Suzman is unable to make anything coherent of Babe, torn between her brother and a looming Shakespearian bore (Nigel Davenport) whom she fellates as the curtain rises on Act 2 before securing his promise to speak well of the play at the Arts Council.

A few moments make their mark: Boy's savage dismissal of the bore's patronising offer of help, for instance. A convincing aroma of failure hovers over the evening, suggesting here and there the true horror of the plight of the frustrated actor and writer.

Although the two leads manage some lightning switches from slick routine to recriminatory muttering, and Miss Suzman especially suggests what a difference a wig and a cigarette-holder make, *Cowardice* never really mines the territory it stakes out, where the surface of pretence is flawed by a vein of unremitting and sordid reality.

Ian McKellen — Alastair Muir

Memories of Glyndebourne

The big news from Glyndebourne came last week, at the end of the season: Peter Hall, associated with the festival since 1970, whose productions of Cavalli, Monteverdi, Mozart, Gluck, Beethoven, and Britten have joined its most celebrated achievements, becomes its next artistic director. Sir Peter, whose work was not featured this year (owing to a leave of absence on other operatic shores), opens the 1984 festival—the 50th anniversary edition—with a revival of *Le nozze di Figaro* and a new production of *L'incoronazione di Poppea*.

This will give a needed fillip to standards which, though still high, seemed this year slightly in danger of declining from the level of previous years. The sound but unremarkable new production of *Idomeneo* was followed, in July, by the season's second unveiling—a *Cenerentola* produced by the former artistic head of house, John Cox.

By Allen Charles Klein Rossini's comedy was over-designed, in a Perrault-influenced toy-theatre manner that developed meaningless excesses; and by Mr Cox it was bedizened with frippery bits of business (boys, dogs, a maze to obscure Cinderella's big entrance at the ball). The compassion and charm of the work, normally guaranteed in a Glyndebourne-size theatre, was dimmed.

On the first night the cast seemed lost in the welter; Kathleen Kuhlmann in the title role was a beautifully smooth and accomplished mezzo but a rather bony, unsympathetic heroine. The conductor, competent, routine, was Donato Renzetti, replaced at later performances by Stephen Barlow. **MAX LOPPERT**

Prokofiev's *L'Amour des trois oranges* was revived in Frank Corsaro's production of last year. Maurice Sendak's flamboyantly funny designs are gauged exactly for the scale of the theatre—gross monsters in a small, cosy space (the television recording we saw last Christmas lost the effect of that). All the same, the sense of genuine mystery and menace that informs Sendak's books for children is hardly felt: too much candid bright light, perhaps, and too much vaudeville business. Simon Rattle brought a new cutting edge to the score, which was a considerable help.

The large cast was again headed by Willard White and Ryland Davies as King and effete Prince, much happier than in their *Seraglio* roles earlier in the season. The various magicians and villains were a vocally uneven crew, though lively: the great summoning-up of Fata Morgana, for example, was underpowered. Among the few newcomers Federico Davià (an old Glyndebourne regular) was a fine, oily Tchélio, and Sally Burgess made a vivid mark as the scheming Sméraldine, acrobatically lithe and expertly sung. An ideal *Trois oranges* would be more baleful, but this one deserved its comfortable success. **DAVID MURRAY**

Intermezzo, directed with masterly speed and economy by John Cox, an operatic high-spot of the last decade, made a welcome return this season. Gustav Kuhn conducted. With the LPO he made the most of the orchestral interludes (spun with conjuror's art out of next to nothing) linking the short scenes of Strauss's domestic comedy while respecting the voices when the curtain was up. Hard to recall a Strauss performance in which so many of the words were clear: Andrew Porter's English version came brilliantly into its own. *Intermezzo* is full of quick-fire conversation. It was good to note the audience's prompt reaction.

In the virtuoso role of the composer's wife Christine, based on Strauss's own ungovernable, appalling, adored Pauline, Felicity Lott succeeded Elisabeth Söderström. A difficult achievement to match, but Miss Lott did so with her own distinct charm and (partly no doubt because she was so happy with the words) fuller voice. Storch, Strauss's meek self-portrait, was taken by the Australian baritone John Pringle: a convincing, slightly too youthful figure with clear, direct, lively singing.

In the Skat scene, a masterly vignette excellently done, one noticed the conductor-crony Stroh of Glenn Winslade. Ian Caley bravely tackled the insiped Baron Lummer. The exasperated, loyal maid Anna of Elizabeth Gale was as good as ever. The late Martin Battersby's sets and 1924 costumes once again delighted, entertained and instructed the eye. **RONALD CRICHTON**

Archaeological Service for Greater London area

A major step forward in providing Greater London with a comprehensive archaeological service has been made possible through a GLC grant made to the Museum of London.

This new service will bring together the existing Southwark and Lambeth Unit, the Inner London Unit, the South West London Unit and the West London Field Group (currently based at the Museum of London), to form a new London Archaeological Service

Nuffield season announced

Just A Kick in the Grass, the controversial play about football by Richard Ireson, is to receive its first public performance at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton, next month. Originally commissioned for the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, the play was banned after an emergency meeting of the theatre board held during the final dress rehearsal at Bromley. *Just a Kick in the Grass* will run from September 29 to October 15.

Starting the Nuffield season on September 8 will be *Zach*, a comedy by Harold Brighouse. *Romeo and Juliet* will open on October 20 followed by *The Dealer*, set in Vienna in 1938, by Thomas Wiseman. The Christmas show will be *Space Queen Malajusta* by Paul King and Alan Herrett with music by Diane Williams.

A musical epic by Melvyn Bragg, *The Hired Man*, based on one of his own novels with music by Howard Goodall, opens on February 2. *Comic Cuts* by Stephen Mallatrat and Goldoni's *The Venetian Twins* complete the season.

Last year two Nuffield productions, *Nuts* by Tom Topor and *Daisy Pulls It Off* by Denise Deegan, transferred to the West End. Season ticket booking for the coming season is 26 per cent up on last year's figure for the same period. Already 20 per cent of the anticipated total income for the season has been taken at the box office.

A.M.

Choreographers to receive Arts Council awards

Choreographers Micha Bergese, Michael Clark, Matthew Hawkins and Sara and Jerry Pearson are to receive awards totalling £2,850 under an Arts Council scheme to assist creative talent in dance. Composer Jon Keliehor is to receive £700 under the same scheme.

Arts Guide

Music/Monday. Opera and Ballet/Tuesday. Theatre/Wednesday. Exhibitions/Thursday. A selective guide to all the Arts appears each Friday.

Music

August 12–18

LONDON

Andras Schiff, piano. Bach Goldberg Variations. Queen Elizabeth Hall (Mon). (928 3191).

Sheila Armstrong, soprano, Felicity Palmer, mezzo-soprano, Martyn Hill, tenor, Richard Jackson, baritone and instrumental soloists. Bartok, Ravel, Schumann und Brahms. Queen Elizabeth Hall (Tue).

Amadeus Quartet. Haydn, Beethoven and Brahms. Queen Elizabeth Hall (Wed).

City of London Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox with Simon Standage and Malcolm Layfield, violins. Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi. Barbican Hall (Thur). (638 8891).

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Simon Rattle with Jessye Norman, soprano. Sibelius, Strauss and Ravel. Royal Festival Hall (928 3191).

PARIS

Bulgarian Choir Rodnapessen conducted by Zoïe Vidas (Mon 6.30 pm), Saint-Louis en l'Ile Church.

One Hour with Rachmaninov by Françoise Buffet, piano (Tue 6.30 pm) Townhall of the 5th Arrondissement.

René Jacobs, haute-contre, Yvon Repérant, harpsichord: Frescobaldi and his times (Tue 8.30 pm), Sainte Chapelle.

Amati Quartet: Mozart, Honegger, Brahms (Wed 6.30 pm), Theatre à Dejazet, 41, Bd du Temple.

René Jacobs, haute-contre, Yvon Repérant, harpsichord: Frescobaldi and his times (Wed 8.30), Sainte Chapelle.

Marburger Bachchor, Hessisches Bach-Collegium conducted by Wolfram Wehnert: J. S. Bach Nach Dir Herr Verlanget Mich, Zelenka Missa Dei Patris (Thur 8.30 pm), Saint-Merri church.

All these concerts are taking place in the framework of the Festival Estival de Paris, tel: 271 5700, sale of tickets Mon to Sat 11 am to 7 pm, 14, rue Francois Miras, metro Hotel de Ville, tel: 271 5700 and Bateaux-Mouches – Port de la Conférence, Pont de l'Alma Rive Droite; metro Alma, tel.: 225 2255.

NEW YORK

New York Philharmonic: Summer's free park concerts continue with Christopher Keene conducting. Corigliano, Beethoven, Sibelius (Mon, Great Lawn, Central Park); Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducting. Mozart, Lutoslawski, Brahms (Wed, Van Cortlandt Park Bronx; Thur Marine Harbour Brooklyn).

New York Choral Society: Joseph Flummerfelt conducts the Westminster Choir College and New York Choral Artists in a programme of Mozart and Faure (Tue); E. Jon DeRevere conducts the NYU Choral Arts Society and DeRevere Chamber Singers in a programme of Puccini and Rossini (Thur). CAMI Hall, 57th & 7th Av (873 0096)

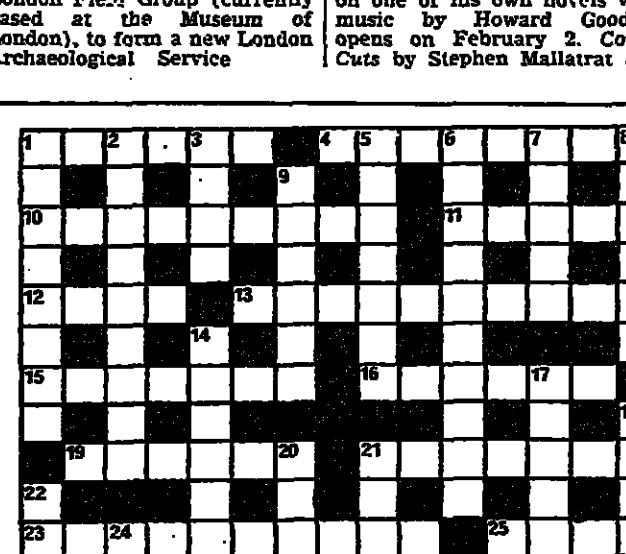
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The English Chamber Orchestra's next London concert season opens on September 23 in the Royal Festival Hall (928 3191) with Jeffrey Tate conducting and the guitarist John Williams. A performance of Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez will be followed by the premiere of Patrick Gowers' Stevie Concerto for Guitar based on Gowers' music for the film Stevie.

The second concert, on October 10, launches the orchestra's 1983 Texaco Tour of the U.S. conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. It will include the world premiere of Robin Holoway's Second Idyll. The U.S. premiere will be in Chicago on October 30 during the ECO's 17-concert tour across 11 states.

Other highlights include concerts with the King's Singers, a Mozart programme conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras with the pianist John Lill, A Viennese evening and a Victorian evening with Robert Tear and Benjamin Luxon.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5,191



ACROSS

1 College with flower for most of term (6)
4 College has drill reversed—steers trouble round (2, 6)
10 College with youth returning in rough ménage (9)
11 A spirit in one colloidal solution (5)
12 Students round the North have certain habits. . . (4)
13 . . . sounding still like sort of office (10)
15 French season is an arrangement of winds (7)
16 Actually it's about a helper (6)
19 This is the soul, mind! (6)
21 Bird having row at half stock of wine (7)
23 College with safe building (10)
25 College expression (4)
27 College with TV presenter, firm inside (5)
28 College took lead in the war (9)
29 Walked pompously, being supported (8)
30 College having meat roll first? (6)

DOWN

1 College with varied menu and meal (8)
2 Arranges for soldiers to appear (9)
3 Cheese manufactured upside-down (4)
5 The little bird's a kind of speaker (7)
6 State was changed and faded away (10)
7 Golfer likes to have one—a flier (5)
8 College with sly, new, redecoration (6)
9 College in SW London (6)
14 More critics alter without one and alter wrongly (10)
17 Appetizing, the tongue is hot? (9)
18 Film is broken by strong hit? Nonsense! (4-4)
20 Decor cheekily includes figure showing muscles (7)
21 A certain paper, first in topical matter (6)
22 Such a man does the talking, radiates (6)
24 Flower part rises with hesitation (5)
26 Do one set of minutes? (4)

The solution to Saturday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners next Saturday.

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Monday August 15 1983

The ghost at the recovery

WHAT WOULD the IMF say about a country which had increased its fiscal deficit, measured on an OECD basis, from 1 per cent of the national product in 1981 to an estimated 4½ per cent this year? The percentage size is not merely higher than that of fiscally virtuous countries such as Britain, but higher than that of France. Would not all its worst suspicions be confirmed if a large current account deficit had also emerged, which was frequently revised upwards and expected to grow into the foreseeable future?

IMF visitors might with difficulty be persuaded that inflation would be contained, despite the fiscal deficit, if monetary growth had been held in check. But how would they respond if the money supply had been growing at 14 per cent since last autumn?

Expenditure

Expert officials might tell the IMF tales about the effects of institutional changes on the meanings of their monetary aggregates. But suppose that it was the case that national income and expenditure measured in money terms were also rising at about 14 per cent? It would be clear that, whatever may have been true in the past, falling velocity was no longer an alibi. It would look as if the country in question had adopted the British Labour Party's alternative economic strategy without for the moment the import controls.

In a last desperate throw, the country's leaders might have pleaded that most of the increase in national expenditure represented real growth, which was running at nearly 9 per cent per annum with little sign of any falling off. At that stage the "real economy" experts in the Fund's team would soon elicit that the underlying growth rate of productive capacity was at most 3 per cent. How much longer could output go on rising three times as fast as capacity growth without running into inflationary bottlenecks? The IMF visitors could also point to a substantial rise in long-term interest rates, *which are determined by the* market, or to a sharp rise in the number of purchasing agents reporting price increases.

The country to which these data refer is not Portugal or Italy, but the U.S., over which the IMF has little leverage. Nevertheless American leaders themselves are most unlikely to sit idly by and let inflation take off into the stratosphere. President Reagan was elected on a platform which, despite other contradictory promises, stressed very heavily the fight against inflation. The Fed Chairman, Mr Paul Volcker, is *almost a symbol of counter in*flationary rectitude.

Initiative

The high level of slack prevailing at the outset of the present upturn and the relative *calm in the labour market* give U.S. policy-makers some small amount of time in which they can act to prevent a return to double digit inflation. There is little chance however of that action including a substantial reduction in the budget deficit which would be desirable both domestically and internationally. Many of the budget worriers overplayed their hand when they predicted that the resulting high level of interest rates would stifle any recovery. Because of their exaggerations, President Reagan has had the last laugh.

Thus, as so often the initiative will have to be taken by the Fed. Already monetary conditions have been tightened more than is realised. The main inhibition on the Fed's Open Market Committee is not so much the Presidential election in 1984, as fears that any major tightening would worsen the world debt problem and push the dollar further upwards.

As soon as there is any sign of the dollar coming off the boil—which will happen when we least expect it—there will be an automatic reduction in the burden of countries with *dollar denominated debt; then* we may expect to see the Fed moving towards tightness in a big way. It will be too late to preserve any remote approximation to stable prices in the U.S., but with luck just in time to *stop an inflationary take-off of* the 1970s variety.

Opportunities in Chile

THE FOURTH successive monthly day of protest against the rule of General Augusto Pinochet took place last Thursday in Chile and underlined the increasing precariousness of his position. When he took power from the socialist President Salvador Allende in the coup *d'état of September 11, 1973,* his action was applauded by many Chileans who were unhappy with the economic chaos that attended the left-wing government. The latter part of Allende's rule had been darkened by desperate squabbling among the parties and groups which made up his administration, by economic ineptitude, by the hostility of the U.S. Government and by the unwillingness of the Soviet bloc to come to his aid in any significant way.

General Pinochet's seizure of power therefore was welcomed by much of the middle-class and the wealthiest Chileans.

General Pinochet was sufficiently ruthless with his opponent's that their voices were seldom heard and their possibilities of organising resistance to him were nil. During the first five years of his administration he rolled back the frontiers of the public sector, *keeping only copper, Chile's* major export item, in the hands of the state. Chile's traditionally high tariffs behind which much local industry had been established at no little cost to the consumer were cut and a boost given to non-traditional exports such as farm products. With the country's trade union structure gravely weakened by political purges employers were able to reduce real wages, a factor which helped in the process of controlling inflation.

Exchange rate

Encouraged by a fixed exchange rate which soon saw the Chilean currency greatly overvalued in relation to the world's major trading currencies, those Chilean business groups which survived the radical new policies of General Pinochet borrowed hard from foreign bankers who were eager to make loans to the new Chile. Many Chilean companies whose products could not compete with the flood of new imports went to the wall but there arose new conglomerates headed by financiers who were able to buy up companies at home with dollars they bought or borrowed cheaply from abroad.

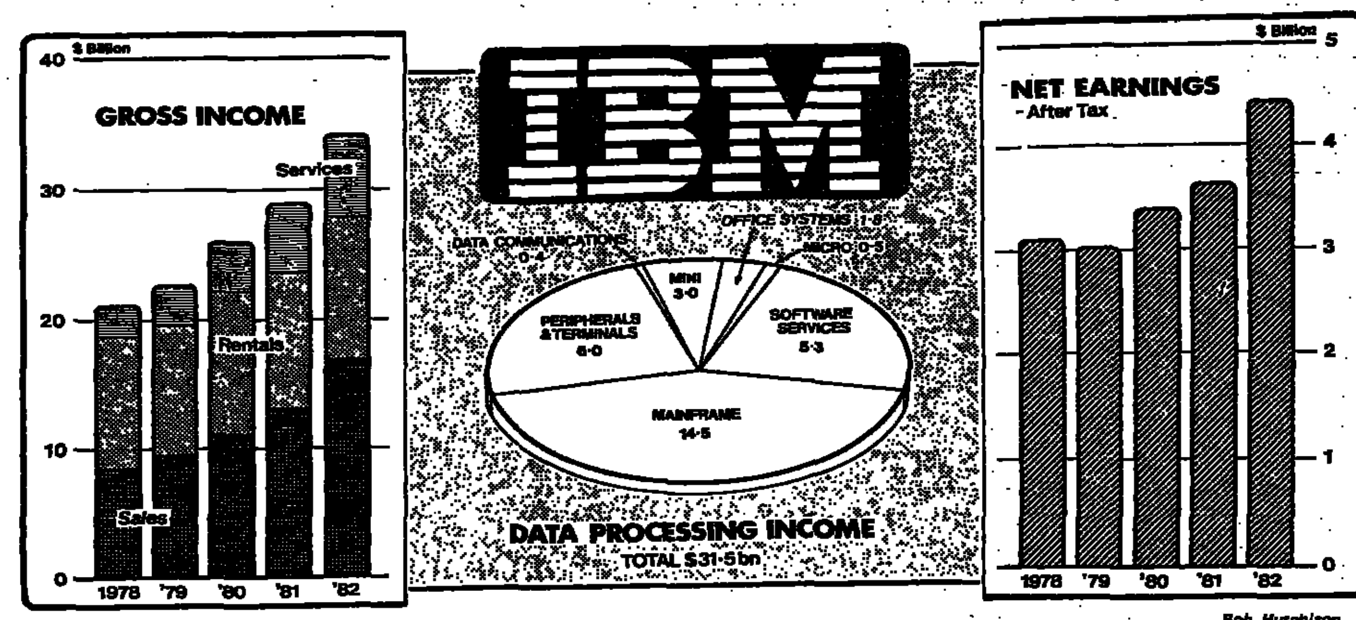
By the end of the 1970s, however, *the Chilean middle class* was beginning to have its doubts about the General's rule. As the Chilean economy became increasingly vulnerable to the downturn in business worldwide, bankruptcy and unemployment rose swiftly. Middle-class living standards began to be eroded to almost the same extent as working-class living standards had been *affected in the years directly* after the coup d'état. The middle class tried to make its voice heard once again through the now banned Christian Democratic party but this time in protest against the General rather than in favour of him.

Worse was to come last year when the wildly overvalued peso had to suffer a drastic and precipitate devaluation as Chile's reserves ebbed away and foreign bankers fought shy of making new loans. Those financial groups which had so greatly benefited from a fixed and unrealistic exchange rate found themselves with too few pesos to meet the greatly increased cost of servicing their foreign loans. Many banks teetered on the verge of bankruptcy and have only been saved by the sort of state intervention which in earlier days bankers themselves had so roundly condemned.

Irregular practices

Chile's economic health is today very delicate indeed. Popular anger is being vented by all sections of society on a military ruler whose mistakes are plain for all to see. General Pinochet has made his own *personal position a great deal* weaker by appearing to condone all sorts of irregular practices in his immediate circle. Today he maintains himself in office by the power of his own personality and because the army high command is fearful of the consequences to themselves of his ouster. With the U.S. Government distancing itself from him, even the most loyal general must suspect that General Pinochet is now a liability to Chile.

The alternatives to Pinochet are fast emerging in the persons of some senior military figures, the president of the supreme court and Sr Gabriel Valdes, the former foreign minister and UN functionary who heads the Christian Demrcrats. The men are on hand to form a provisional government which could steer Chile back to that democratic rule on which Chileans had always prided themselves. Unlike some of its neighbours, Chile has the political traditions, reasonably skilled workforce and natural resources to provide the basis for new prosperity and political stability.



Bob Hutchison

Going for broke to stay number one

By Guy de Jonquieres

HOW DO you stay number one in one of the world's *fastest-growing and most* fiercely competitive industries? At International Business Machines (IBM), the answer is to go for broke.

The world's largest computer manufacturer (worldwide turnover last year: $34.4bn) is bounding into the 1980s with a vigour and rapacious appetite for growth which belie both its monolithic size and its previous reputation for cautious conservatism.

IBM has set itself two priorities: to be the information processing industry's "technology leader" and its lowest-cost producer. To equip itself, it has carried through one of the most sweeping internal reorganisations in recent U.S. corporate history. It has redefined its strategic objectives, shaken up its management structure, introduced fresh operating methods and business practices and invested massively in automation to improve manufacturing efficiency.

As well as reasserting its long-standing dominance in large "mainframe" computers, it is blazing a trail in newer, entrepreneurial markets. Its personal computer, launched less than two years ago, is already rivalling pioneers such as Apple and Commodore for market leadership, and the company has thrust into robotics, computer-aided manufacturing and telecommunications.

It has conceded, however, that even with its own vast *resources — which include a* $2bn a year research and development budget—it can no longer do everything itself. It is sub-contracting far more of its production than ever before. It has also sought out partners *to* provide the technology, products and market expertise it needs and secured its links with them by means of equity stakes.

Last year, it spent $250m to buy 12 per cent of Intel, a leading semiconductor company with which it already worked closely. This summer, it agreed to purchase 15 per cent of Rolm, the second largest U.S. supplier of private exchanges (PABXs) after American Telephone and Telegraph, for $228m. That deal supersedes an arrangement with Canada's Mitel, which IBM had asked to develop switching equipment for it, but which has suffered development problems.

During the 1970s, IBM's business *expanded by about 13 per* cent a year. Over the next decade it aims to grow as fast as the information processing industry as a whole — by roughly 15 to 20 per cent annually.

So far, its ambitious plans are paying off. Last year, turnover rose 18 per cent and net income 22 per cent to $4.4bn, while profits in many other parts of the industry sagged. This year's first half results were even better: turnover increased by 18.2 per cent and net income by 24.3 per cent. On Wall Street, IBM shares have regained star status, rising to $118 from $63 a year ago.

Its renewed aggressiveness is making life much harder for IBM's traditional computer industry rivals, such as Burroughs, NCR and Sperry. None can hope to challenge its supremacy in mainframes, and most are scurrying for cover by trying to diversify into more specialised market niches.

IBM, meanwhile, is stalking bigger prey on the other side of the world. It has launched a determined campaign to check Japan's inroads into international information processing markets. Mr Ulric Weil, an analyst with New York investment bank Morgan Stanley, describes its approach as a "pincer strategy."

One prong was last year's much-publicised legal "sting" of Hitachi, which has admitted stealing IBM secrets. IBM is *also using its sizeable manufac*turing and marketing presence in Japan to widen the commercial battlefield. In a move unthinkable a few years ago, it is collaborating with Matsushita, Japan's largest consumer electronics manufacturer, to develop and make small business systems.

Officially, IBM says the deal will expand its production capacity. But Mr Weil sees the alliance as a ploy to pit Matsushita against major Japanese computer companies such as Fujitsu, Hitachi and Nippon Electric and divert their attention from overseas markets.

The origins of the sea-change within IBM can be traced back to the early 1970s. After the spectacular success of its 360 computer family, which revolutionised performance standards a few years earlier, the company appeared to be lapsing into complacency.

It *ignored* the emergence of important growth businesses beyond its traditional markets, standing back while upstarts like Digital Equipment made the running in newly-popular minicomputers and Wang *surged ahead in word pro*cessors. Even more critical was an ominous and unexpected assault on its pre-eminence in large computers.

It came from a generation of new companies such as Amdahl, Magnusson, National Advanced Systems (NAS) and Storage Technology, many of which were linked commercially and technically to Japanese electronics groups. Known as the plug-compatible manufacturers (PCMs), they launched machines which were interchangeable with IBM's own but offered more power at lower prices.

They did so by exploiting more aggressively than IBM the falling cost and increasing per*formance of microchips.* By undercutting its prices by as much as 25 per cent, they helped to reduce IBM's share of the large computer market from 70 to 60 per cent during the 1970s.

At first, IBM sought to foil its rivals by subtly altering and concealing key technical features of its machines. It even considered changing the entire basis of its computer systems design, but rejected the idea for fear of upsetting its customers. In the end, it retaliated on the PCM's own terms, by launching new models at highly competitive prices.

The formula took time to come right. It backfired in 1979, when IBM launched a new *family of medium-sized com*puters, the 4300, with up to five times more power per dollar than its immediate predecessor. Swamped by a tidal wave of orders, IBM could not meet demand quickly enough, giving the PCMs time to develop competing equipment.

In the longer run, the tactic *has dented—though not entirely* removed—the PCM challenge. Magnusson collapsed, Amdahl's profits tumbled sharply last year (though they have since recovered) and NAS withdrew from manufacturing. It now *relies entirely for its computers* on Hitachi.

IBM has pressed its advantage by greatly accelerating its new product introduction rate. The gap between successive generations of equipment has short*ened to as little as four years* from five or six years a decade ago and is expected to shrink still further.

In the process, IBM has rewritten its own marketing rules. Traditionally, rentals have been *its single largest source of* revenue. But shortening product life cycles have encouraged more customers to buy their machines outright. In 1980 sales revenues overtook rental income and last year were 50 per cent *higher.*

IBM's former policy of pricing new products so that they did not undercut the models they replaced has been thrown to the winds, too. And since the U.S. Justice Department dropped its anti-trust case against the company early last year, it has wheeled in a whole battery of new pricing weapons, including deep discounts for bulk purchases and negotiated package deals.

These tactics, so far used mostly in the U.S., have made IBM much less predictable than in the past. "They are a major departure from past IBM tradition and quite confounding to its competitors," says Mr Tom Crotty of the Gartner Group, an American research house. In addition, IBM has *started to rely increasingly on* independent dealers and retailers to distribute lower cost consumer products, notably its personal computer.

It has also restructured its management to improve its *responsiveness to the market.* Responsibility for development, manufacturing and marketing has been decentralised and regrouped around more than a dozen product lines. IBM's three former business divisions, *which often competed against* each other, have been consolidated into two, with more clearly defined functions. Semi-autonomous units have been created outside the main corporate structure to handle new businesses such as personal computers.

The cornerstone of the grand strategy—without which the other elements would have been mere window-dressing—is the massive investments which *IBM has made to improve manu*facturing efficiency. Since 1977, it has spent more than $10bn to re-equip its worldwide network of 42 plants in 14 countries and is continuing to invest at the rate of about $2bn a year.

In recent years, progress in the electronics industry has come to depend less on making fundamental breakthroughs in the laboratory (such as the invention of the transistor) than on mastering the process and manufacturing technology needed to make products in volume, reliably and at low cost. Increasingly, it is the tools which define the nature of the task.

These trends have led IBM to adopt a more rigorously selective approach to manufacturing than in the past. According to Mr James Bitonti, vice-president of manufacturing, IBM's policy nowadays is to make itself only those products for which it has developed uniquely advanced production methods or which cannot be bought more economically elsewhere. The only part of its personal computer supplied exclusively by IBM is the keyboard.

Its huge investment programme has concentrated on automating the mass production and assembly of precision-engineered components. Its new automated lines, designed mostly to its own specifications, are made up of a series of different modules, each of which can be adjusted or replaced without disrupting the rest of the chain.

As a result, tooling up to make new products has been greatly simplified. At IBM's vast semiconductor plant in East Fishkill, New York, an automated system has cut from three months to three weeks the time needed to alter the lay-out of the tiny circuits embedded in silicon chips.

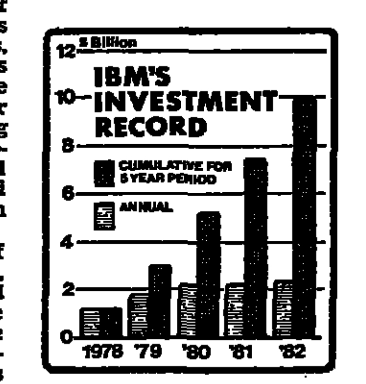
IBM has been less successful, however, at making money from software, the programmes needed to make computers work. Writing programmes remains largely a hit-and-miss activity, which is heavily labour-intensive. "The return on investment is horrible," says Mr James Strickland, an assistant general manager at IBM's software centre in Santa Teresa, California. "You can spend five years developing a piece of software and not get a nickel back *for another seven years."*

At present, software accounts for only about 5 per cent of most large customers' annual expenditure with IBM. But its importance will grow as prices of computer equipment (hardware) *continue to fall. Like* the rest of the industry, IBM is seeking ways to increase software's contribution to profits.

A considerable part of the software is rented and IBM has recently raised its charges *by 10-15* per cent a year. It must move cautiously, however, if it is to keep at bay competitors offering cheaper alternatives to its programmes. (Much of IBM's software has a reputation for being fairly basic, and *small rivals offering* more refined programmes to run in its machines have always found a ready market.)

For the foreseeable future, that is likely to remain a manageable problem. IBM has seldom appeared stronger or more confident than it does today, and its rivals—from mainframe manufacturers to the new breed of personal computer entrepreneurs—have rarely had to be quicker on their feet.

But its resurgence has also been achieved by taking much bigger risks. The whole of IBM is geared as never before to continued high rates of growth, at a time when it is expanding boldly into unfamiliar markets. Its sights are set on the summits. But if it stumbles, it will have much further to fall.



THE U.S. LEADERS

1982 data processing revenues $bn

IBM	31.5
Digital Equipment	4.0
Burroughs	3.8
Control Data	3.3
NCR	3.2
Sperry	2.8
Hewlett-Packard	2.2
Honeywell	1.7
Wang	1.3
Xerox	1.3

Source: Datamation

Men & Matters

Top team

Mrs Thatcher may not want a Prime Minister's department in Downing Street, but she remains keen to build up her team of personal advisers. The latest additions to the Number 10 Policy Unit, John Redwood, director of pension fund accounts at Rothschilds, and Oliver Letwin, a Cambridge don, follow the appointment last month of two refugees from the disbanded Think Tank, taking the total up to seven.

Lest, however, anyone think that a power base is being created, there has been little sense of permanence in Downing Street recently—apart, of course, from the boss herself. All the original Policy Unit under Sir John Hoskyns have gone, Sir Alan Walters, her economic guru, is going back to the U.S., and there are rumours that Ferdinand Mount, the current head of the unit, and Sir Anthony Parsons, her foreign affairs adviser, may not stay for all of Mrs Thatcher's second term.

The common feature of the new arrivals is intellectual fire power. Redwood is a fellow of All Souls and has become a leading Conservative specialist on the public and nationalised industries (he is not a fan). So expect more privatisation ideas.

Letwin has, at the age of 27, a philosophy doctorate at Cambridge and had a stint as special advisor to Sir Keith Joseph, enough to strain anyone's intellect.

Most of the unit are in their 20s and 30s, and several are known as keen to ensure there is no letting up in the government's radicalism.

Nor are they entirely without experience of the real world. Redwood has direct knowledge of the inner cities. He lost his deposit, just, in the Peckham by-election last *October.*

"I found these in the tool kit of my new Maestro!"

Satellite saga

Modern Vikings are not out to inspire fear and loathing like *their fierce and hairy forebears* of a thousand years ago. With peaceful intent—no thoughts of rape and pillage—a Norwegian crew will set out next April in a small ship of Viking design on a journey the original Vikings could never have dreamed of: round the world, no less.

It will take two years and the whole venture, including construction of the knarr, a cargo vessel smaller than the better-known "long ships," will cost some £600,000. Before going round the world, initially tracing the hazardous course of Leiv Eiriksson across the North Atlantic, the crew of the Saga Siglar (Saga Sailor) are seeing what the ship can do in European waters.

To Ragnar Thorseth, the shaggily-bearded, 35-year-old head of the expedition, a round-the-world voyage will top even his previous exploits. He has rowed alone from Norway to the Shetlands, sailed to America in a small fishing vessel and led an expedition to the North Pole.

The 25-ton Saga Siglar, recently in London, looks like a sturdy oversize canoe which has sprouted a sail but the six-man crew and hardy TV cameraman will not be entirely on their own against the elements. Helping them will be some most un-Viking like navigational equipment and a Saturn 3 satellite link-up from their main sponsor, Elektrisk Bureau of Norway.

Fun money

Jerry Gillies, ex-journalist, joke writer and comedian and current teacher of what he calls "prosperity consciousness," is styled in the brochure for his coming Londonseminars as a "*self-made millionaire,* money magician and author."

The 43-year-old American is certainly not one for the old-fashioned work ethic at which he delights in taking verbal pot shots. "Loafing is one of the most creative money-producing things you can do" goes one of his more seductive statements.

"You don't have to work hard to earn a good living," runs another. Whether those in London will go for Gillies' *neatly packaged and winsomely* presented views on how to forget the daily grind and achieve wealth, happiness and fulfilment all in one remains to be seen.

It will cost them £125 to find out in late September "in a weekend training designed to explode your money myths and teach the easy way to create exactly what you want in life." Those canny, eager or curious enough to pay up by the end of August will save £25.

Gillies' whole concept of money without undue stress or strain will seem more than a little foreign and starry-eyed to those *struggling to win their* bosses' approval or avoid the lengthy dole queues on either side of the Atlantic.

Coy truisms like "If people like what they are doing it's not work" abound in his philosophy, set out in his book "Moneylove." But for him the idea of "prosperity consciousness"—summed up as having the vision, belief and skills to attain what you want—has clearly worked, judging by his "millionaire" tag.

Whether travelling in his customised motorhome, living on his Florida houseboat, or gazing from a cliff in Malibu, he says, "I have attracted beauty and comfort and pleasure in my everyday life."

Nicked

Police, the journal of the Police Federation, warmly welcomes *Home Secretary Leon Brittan's* intention to stop the practice of keeping remand prisoners in station cells.

The cells at Lyndhurst, Hampshire, were used for this purpose until recently and *books were borrowed from the* local library to enable the reluctant guests to pass their enforced leisure usefully.

Two books went missing and the police have been asked for £2.75 to replace them. "You can't trust anyone these days," complains Police ruefully.

Hotel grounds

A reader who recently stayed at a south coast hotel writes that during a "Carnival Dance" one night an eager waiter with a tray of assorted paper hats went up to a glum-looking American who was sitting alone and asked: "Would you care for a novelty, sir?" Came the tart reply: "Sure I would—a decent cup of coffee."

Observer

MASSEY FERGUSON

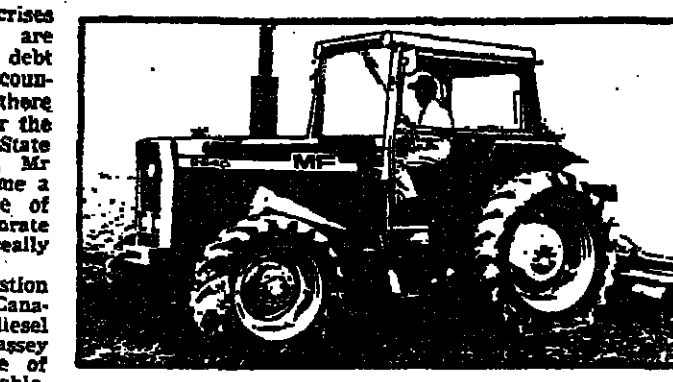
The story of a backdoor rescue

By John Plender

SOVEREIGN DEBT crises in Latin America are newsworthy, corporate debt crises in developed countries are not. Or is there some other explanation for the fact that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Cecil Parkinson, has become a major shareholder in one of Britain's biggest corporate casualties without anyone really noticing?

Since the casualty in question is the UK subsidiary of Canadian farm machinery and diesel engine manufacturer Massey Ferguson, a certain sense of déja vu is perhaps excusable. The Massey Ferguson group which employers 11,000 people in Britain has been undergoing near-endemic financial stress since 1978. Moreover, the British Government was involved in an earlier, much-publicised rescue package alongside *no less than 240 banks* and financial institutions, which was put together one hectic week in January 1981 at the Dorchester Hotel in London.

Since then, corporate rescues



Massey Ferguson Holdings minority shareholders

Barclays Bank ● Midland Bank ● Lloyds Bank ●
National Westminster Bank ● Grindlays Bank ●
Standard Chartered Bank ● MAIBL ● Hambros Bank ●
Citibank ● Morgan Guaranty Trust ● Hill Samuel ●
Toronto Dominion Bank ● Royal Bank of Canada ●
Société Générale ● Crédit Lyonnais ●
Banque Nationale de Paris ● Secretary of State for
Trade and Industry (c/o Export Credits Guarantee Dept)

The nightmare element has not been entirely eliminated

have become increasingly familiar, but that cannot disguise the fact that the stakes have been raised significantly at Massey Ferguson, both for the Government and the banks, since a second refinancing was completed with much less publicity in March this year.

Not only has the British Government recently taken a direct convertible preference share stake in Massey Ferguson Holdings, the UK subsidiary, for the first time. It also stands to end up with some 6.9 per cent of the equity in the Canadian parent on full conversion of its shareholding entitlement (potential book cost £39m) in both the British and Canadian companies. In addition, the Export Credits Guarantee Department has extended increased facilities to Massey which could ultimately run up to £100m or so. And there is increasing concern about the state of the agricultural equipment market which is crucial to the group's future.

The case gives an insight into the way banks are handling overstretched clients in British industry, and perhaps also some foresight since Massey is at a more advanced stage of intensive care with problems that began earlier.

The first financing package started to fall apart, according to Mr Michael Bird, chairman of Massey Ferguson Holdings, when management became aware of a significant downturn in the United States in April last year. The group quickly ran into cash problems, which were made acute by the need to find $30m to redeem a Eurobond issue at the end of June. From then on the group's loan covenants became increasingly troublesome. Local banks started to look to assets in their own countries and to restrict payments between subsidiaries.

In Britain, as elsewhere, covenants were breached. The latest accounts of Massey Ferguson Holdings for the 15 months to January, 1983, show a pre-tax loss of £35.4m. Between October, 1980, and the end of January this year shareholders' funds shrank from £124m to £56m, while net borrowings rose from £66m to £144m (though *some* £55m *of* that figure is subordinated debt and does not count for the purpose of capital covenants in the second rescue agreement).

It took from June, 1982, to March of this year to hammer out the new group refinancing deal. British merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson and the Canadian investment house Wood Gundy were instrumental in devising the scheme, while the Bank of England played a background role in helping resolve conflicts between different parties to the negotiation. Part and parcel of the financial package was a radical restructuring of the group's business, which has led to significant closures in Britain and a halving of the British workforce from 22,000 to 11,000.

The striking feature of this second refinancing is its demonstration of how far the banking community has moved from the traditional remedy of requiring its clients to take even stronger (or lethal) medicine when suffering a relapse. At group level the scope for trouble with cross default clauses has, according to Mr Bird, been reduced. All earlier defaults have been waived and additional interest forgiveness has been granted by the banks.

The British banks also failed in a bid to uncouple the UK subsidiary from the Canadian parent; control remains firmly in Toronto.

But this is not to say that Massey has enjoyed a completely free ride; *still* less that the negotiations were easy.

The UK subsidiary has been required to charge all its assets jointly to the banks, to ECGD, and Eagle Star, the trustee for the debenture holders. Equity has been offered not just to the British Government, but to 17 banks (see illustration) who, according to records at Companies House, now hold preference shares in the UK company convertible into stock of the Canadian parent. There is also a general perception on the part of the banks that the management has confronted awkward decisions and handled a painful rationalisation of the business with skill.

But the nightmare element has not been entirely eliminated. In certain circumstances cross-default provisions could still crystallise, leading to an acceleration of existing debt obligations, cessation of interest waivers and the reinstatement of other debt obligations.

However, in the view of one banker centrally involved in the negotiations, it is highly unlikely that any banker would in practice call a technical default that would place the whole group in jeopardy. He argues that the outcome represents a balance between all the widely differing interests involved and that the first refinancing should be viewed as a holding operation, while the second and better informed negotiation was designed to address the more fundamental problems of worsening conditionsin Massey Ferguson's markets. Most bankers were concerned with the knock-on effect of allowing the group to collapse among supplies and others.

The auditors, meantime, have not expressed doubts in their report on whether Massey Ferguson Holdings can be regarded as a going concern, despite the awesome contingent laibilities that could arise on the sudden triggering of covenants and acceleration of debt obligations; or about the value of amounts receivable from other troubled group companies.

Here, then, in spite of some special factors, is an indication of where the modern equivalent of receivership for large companies has got to. The government may dislike having to support lame ducks in this way, but Massey still employs 11,000 people in Britain. Its Perkins diesel engine business in Peterborough has always been highly regarded and some in Whitehall would be reluctant to see tractor-making capacity disappear overseas as combine harvesters have.

One merit of such a rescue is that it is at least cut-price. Instead of bailing out the banks as well as the company through nationalising it, part of the rescue job has been devolved on to the banks themselves — in effect privatised. And in the specific case of Massey Ferguson it has been possible to avoid publicity because the support has been offered via ECGD.

Under the Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act *1978* the Trade Secretary can, with Treasury consent, offer guarantees and purchase securities without direct Parliamentary scrutiny.

The big question is, will the package hold? Where is the end to this form of quasi-receivership? The UK subsidiary is well within its covenants so far this year and can even afford to make a small loss without triggering disaster. In fact, it expects to make a profit, which will probably be enhanced by some windfall gains. But it remains vulnerable to events elsewhere.

At the start of the year, the worldwide group had hoped to break even provided demand remained at the 1982 level. It has not. A net loss has been reported in the first quarter of U.S.$17.9m. In the key North American market for agricultural machinery, on which the future of the whole group is heavily dependent, the upturn is proving stubbornly slow to appear.

In Europe, heavy discounting is rife in the industry. The French Government has stepped in to offer a tourniquet to Massey's French subsidiary, in the form of loans carrying a right to equity participation. (Interestingly, nationalisation has been eschewed.) It is also concerned about the future shape of the market and has encouraged talks between Massey's troubled competitor International Harvester (which is due to renegotiate its financing later this year)and Renault.

The trouble with this present alternative to receivership is precisely that governments and bankers are likely to find it harder to extricate themselves as they are sucked deeper in, both as creditors and shareholders—which is one reason to question whether backdoor support via ECGD is an appropriate way for the government to conduct its support operations.

At Massey Ferguson Holdings Mr Bird *is now* whistling to keep up creditors' spirits. He says that the company hopes to make a public issue in the not too distant future. The parent would not apparently be averse

Such a rescue is at least cut-price

to a significant quoted minority holding in the British subsidiary. Alternatively the company is considering an issue of preference shares convertible into common stock of the Canadian parent.

Whether institutional investors will bite when the company is still, at least in theory, vulnerable to cross-defaults triggered by other group companies in more troubled markets elsewhere is, however, a moot point.

Here, in a nutshell, is the dilemma of government ministers and bankers in handling the banking problems of the corporate sector. There may be no strenuous high-profile brinkmanship of the Brazilian kind; but it is hugely difficult to persuade pension funds and insurance companies to take on the job of risk-takers of last resort to the manufacturing sector. Until markets turn up and *profitability improves tangibly*, the rescuers will remain on the hook.

Lombard

Exchange and interest rates

By Samuel Brittan

"HOW CAN the Bank of England refuse to follow dollar interest rates upwards? Won't all British funds drain away to the United States starving *British industry and commerce?*"

This may seem a simple question. But the answer has interesting implications. First of all note that interest rates can and do vary widely. Three months' interest rates quoted in the Euromarket vary from a fraction over 4 per cent for Switzerland to less than 6 per cent for Germany, over 6½ per cent for Japan, nearly 10 per cent for the UK, about the same for the U.S., and over 15 per cent for France and nearly 18 per cent for Italy. No one will say that the Swiss economy is about to collapse or that Italy is drawing in funds from all over the world. (Lugano, remember, is in Switzerland.)

The most elementary reason why there is no such drain of funds is that in any market purchases must equal sales. However high the dollar soars against sterling, every purchase of dollars with pounds is matched by a corresponding purchase of pounds with dollars. The exchange rate will move to a *level* where willing buyers match willing sellers.

The exception to this state of affairs is where there is a fixed exchange rate or the national authority is trying to support its own currency on a falling market. Then indeed there can be an unlimited drain of foreign exchange reserves, which will force that authority either to give up the attempt or try to stem the drain by a rise in interest rates. Thank goodness that rates are floating.

The next question is how the foreign exchange market manages to reconcile divergent national interest rates. If U.S. interest rates are higher than those in other countries, the dollar must rise to a level where it is expected to *depreciate* enough in the future to make up for the interest rate differential. For instance the three-month forward dollar is at an annualised discount of about 5 per cent against the German mark. At that level the benefits of switching to the U.S. are offset for the typical German *financial investor by the* expected fall in the value of the dollar.

The Bank of England publishes figures for the covered interest rate differential, that is the difference between U.S. and UK interest rates after allowing for forward cover. The differential varies slightly according to the exact interest rates used for the comparison. It is typically slightly above zero and varies much less than the crude uncovered differential.

If we peer a little further ahead, it all becomes much less elementary. There are very different reasons why interest rates can be higher in the U.S. than in hard currency European countries. At one extreme it may be because the Fed is acting firmly against incipient inflationary pressure. Once this has proved effective, U.S. interest rates may drop, and both the recent rise in the dollar and the expected subsequent fall will prove a once-for-all incident of "overshooting" typical of such a correction.

At the other extreme, the rise in U.S. interest rates may not be enough to prevent a re-acceleration of inflation accompanied by a depreciating dollar in the longer term. (Anyone who thinks this possibility strange may like to recall that when Mr Paul Volcker was in London recently, he seemed much more convinced that inflationary psychology had been conquered in Britain than he did in the U.S.) In that case interest rates can remain indefinitely higher in the U.S. than on this side of the Atlantic; the dollar will depreciate indefinitely and its present high level come to be seen as an historical curiosity. In between these two extremes there are any number of intermediate irregular paths.

The upshot is that if the long-term prospects for the dollar are discouraging then U.S. interest rates can permanently diverge upwards from those of other currencies. But if the dollar's prospects are good, then any differential of U.S. interest rates above those of other leading countries must be temporary.

As the eventual prospects for the different currencies are far from clear, central banks outside America should not hesitate to exploit existing opportunities *for interest rate divergence* to pursue policies geared to domestic stability.

Letters to the Editor

Myths about the tourist industry in the UK

From the Deputy Chief Executive, Trusthouse Forte

Sir,—I must take issue with Mr C. Larrea (August 10) for his ill-founded criticisms of British tourism and for unfairly perpetuating the myth that the hotel and catering industry leans heavily on "cheap imported labour." He contends that this is a "well-known fact." Please allow me to inform him of some undisputed *facts*—first and most *important* that tourism is Britain's biggest earner of invisible exports contributing to the economy more than £4bn a year in foreign currency.

This surely is not a bad effort for an industry which he described as "comparatively a newcomer" and accuses of being fragmented and vulnerable.

He is quite wrong in what he *says about imported labour.* The facts, as given last year by the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board after extensive research, are that 89.6 per cent of the people employed in the industry are British. A further 1.4 per cent are of Irish nationality and 5 per cent come from other European countries.

The situation is that only 4 per cent of our total workforce is non-European of which 1.2 per cent are Asians. Mr Larrea's contention that Filipinos are our *latest* source of foreign hotel labour is patent nonsense. I understand that the Department of Employment, overseas labour section has not issued any permits for Filipino nationals to work in the hotel and catering industry for more than four years. Nor is it issuing any permits for the industry at the present time, except of course for EEC nationals who have the right to move freely *within the Community.*

The Filipino staff that I know of in the hotel industry have worked in Britain for 10 or more years. There is no compulsion on them to stay and a reasonable conclusion would be that they remain here working in the industry because they are happy to do so.

Even if the industry had a mind to exploit its workers, which is most certainly not the case, their rates of pay and conditions are laid down in Wages Councils orders which have statutory force.

It is sad that regular and ill-informed attempts are made to denigrate a British industry which has done much to aid the country's financial recovery and which in the last 10 years has increased its workforce by almost 30 per cent.

Nevertheless I can assure Mr Larrea and other critics that the industry will maintain its efforts with even greater success.

Dennis Hearn.
86, Park Lane, W1

Long-lease flats

From Miss B. North.

Sir,—Susan Iwanek (August 11) is wrong if *she* thinks that "the acquisition of a more valuable financial asset" is the only reason for wanting leasehold enfranchisement. Whether the property rented is a flat or a house, when the tenant retires from active work he has nothing butthe prospect of continuing to pay rent on a considerably decreased income. The owner-occupier *will normally* have paid for his property by the end of his working life and can live rent-free. In addition, in most cases mortgage payments decrease over the years and leave a margin for saving. Rents increase and leave no such margin.

I have not thought out the *moral implications fully, but it* seems to me that there is a vast difference between owning two cars (or two houses) which the family use, and leasing one of them out at inflated rates to a third party if it is surplus to the family's requirements.

Ms Iwanek could also be reminded, with profit, that even the most moral arguments can be carried to extremes and thus cease to be moral.

(Miss) B. E. North.
21 Trinity Church Square, SE1.

Conflict in Chad

From the Political Section, Libyan People's Bureau,

Sir,—Although your editorial "An unnecessary crisis" (August 10) provided a welcome warning against the American escalation of the Chadian conflict into a major international crisis, the authority of your argument was weakened by portraying the Libyan Jamahiriyah as the *aggressor and* instigator of the conflict, while the United States was seen as responding, or over-responding, to Libya's alleged actions.

In the opening sentence you refer to Washington's "militant response" to "Libyan assistance to rebel *forces* in Chad." Three paragraphs later you point out that Hissene Habre "overthrew *Mr Goukouni in June 1982 with* U.S. support." Habre's rebellion against Goukouni started some time earlier, funded by $10m worth of "aid" from the CIA, according to an Agency Testimony to the House of Representatives intelligence committee in Washington last June.

You will recall that when Libyan troops went into Chad it was at the request of the recognised Chadian Government of Mr Goukouni. Libya's peacekeeping role was to strengthen the position of the Government which had been established under Organisation of African Unity auspices, and which was committed to national reconciliation of the various factions in Chad. *Libya* believed that this goal was essential to long-term peace and stability in Chad. It is, therefore, to turn facts on their head, to suggest that Libya is the instigator of the conflict in Chad when it was Washington which fuelled the conflict and plotted the overthrow of Goukouni's Government of national unity.

Meanwhile, we strongly reject the American claims that Libyan forces are engaged in the conflict, or have entered Chadian territory. Many allegations have been made against Libya but all lack any firm independent evidence to support them. Habre's regime rejects any independent observers from the OAU, journalists and others are barred from the battlefront, no one has actually seen a Libyan *soldier* in Chad, although the Press creates the impression that a Libyan invasion army is storming across the country We. are accused of bombing civilian *areas*, and further accused of using napalm and phosphorous bombs. Again no. independent evidence exists, while journalists have been shown only the body of an alleged victim of such burns but covered in bandages. A Libyan pilot is paraded in N'Djamena, who Habre claims was shot down last week. In fact, this pilot was taken prisoner by Habre two years ago and his capture reported at the time by the Egyptian and Sudanese news agencies.

The real danger in this conflict is that western Governments and public opinion are being manipulated by a very clever propaganda campaign from the American side to support an American military build-up in the region with the possible U.S. objective of an attack against Libya.

Certainly Libya has no desire for a confrontation with the United States. We have no intention of entering American territorial waters, nor of establishing military bases on territories neighbouring the United States, nor of launching an armed invasion of America. Who, however, is convinced that the Reagan Administration is not guilty of plotting all these things against the Libyan Jamahiryah? If this is the American scheme, who can deny that we have the right as an independent sovereign state to defend ourselves?

Libyan People's Bureau.
5, St James's Square, S.W.1.

Re-entry problem

From Mr D. Toft

Sir,—Mr Philip Stein, of the National Union of Journalists (August 11), obviously has a well-developed sense of humour.

Not many people shared his good fortune to see the FT of August 9. The restart was held up because "at this moment in time there is a mealtime situation," according to an FT manager interviewed on the radio.

There is only one word to describe the management's climb-down in this distateful affair — ignominious.

With a workforce like yours, Sir, you don't need the Wall Street Journal.

D. M. Toft.
The White House,
22 West Side,
Wimbledon, SW19

Trade with Kuwait

From the Deputy Director, International Affairs, Confederation of British Industry.

Sir,—In your report of August 11 *"CBI warns exporters* against seeking new Iraq contracts," I am concerned that the message of caution regarding short-term business prospects with Iraq should have extended to business dealings with Kuwait. We have issued no warnings to exporters involved with Kuwait; although the Kuwait economy is directly affected by the fighting between Iran and Iraq, British trade with Kuwait continues to be satisfactory and it is one of the markets in the Middle East which offers good business prospects for British goods.

D. A. Johnson.
103 New Oxford Street, WC1

FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday August 15 1983

Terry Byland
on Wall Street

Investors abroad set to diversify

THE INCREASING trend towards overseas investment by U.S. institutions is bringing a re-examination of the existing mechanisms for buying and selling foreign stocks.

The conventional market for foreign issues was the American Depository Receipt (ADR) market. But *the growing sophistication* of international communications and securities trading now enables the U.S. investor to trade foreign stocks in their home markets, without difficulty or delay.

The choice is one of investment convenience, rather than price, since an active arbitrage market ensures that share prices in ADR and foreign markets are kept in line.

ADRs were introduced in the 1920s by a former head of the Curb Market – later to become the American Stock Exchange – and Guaranty Trust, later merged into Morgan Guaranty. It was created as an answer to the problems U.S. investors discovered in obtaining adequate information and registration facilities concerning companies on foreign stock markets.

Morgan, soon joined by many other U.S. banks, bought foreign stocks which it warehoused, usually in the country of origin. It issued receipts (ADRs) for one or more of the shares and a healthy market in the receipts quickly sprang to life.

ADRs are now traded on the American Stock Exchange (Amex), the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the over-the-counter markets (OTC).

ADRs are still a very suitable means of trading foreign stocks in the U.S. particularly for the private investor. Lacking electronic access to overseas markets of the investment institutions, he can nonetheless trade his ADRs easily and, more important, obtain quick and reliable settlement in the U.S.

Moreover, the system provides, via the U.S. banks, adequate channels for dividend payments, stock splits, takeovers, and in the case of Rolls-Royce, liquidations. It ensures that annual reports and other important company documents are filed in the U.S.

The only disadvantage, and this has proved purely academic to date, is that the ADR holder never acquires any direct call on the company. It is the U.S. bank which is the registered shareholder.

Trading in ADRs has expanded rapidly as U.S. investors have turned their eyes overseas. They now come in two forms, sponsored and unsponsored. Sponsored ADRs are those for which the parent company has, in effect, agreed to comply with U.S. securities reporting requirements and are usually quoted on the NYSE or the Amex.

Sponsored ADRs include a wide range of Canadian securities, as well as such prominent figures in the European investment establishment as ICI, Courtaulds, Dunlop, *Imperial Group, BAT Industries*, Unilever, BP, Shell and KLM. But, significantly, absent from the lists of the NYSE and the Amex are the substantial number of Japanese companies whose shares now trade regularly in the U.S.

The growth in ADRs over the past decade has come in unsponsored ADRs which now heavily outnumer the sponsored variety. An unsponsored ADR effectively represents a demand from U.S. investors, and is created when a U.S. bank takes it on itself to arrange with the SEC to quote an ADR, with the company itself playing only a minor role.

The unsponsored list has lengthened rapidly as U.S. investors have turned to the Japanese market. It now includes about 240 Japanese securities with all the best-known names prominent.

Morgan Guaranty remains the leading U.S. bank, but Citibank, Irving Trust, Chemical Bank and Chase Manhattan are all active in Japanese ADRs.

The dominance of the unsponsored ADRs is another feather in the cap of the OTC markets

But, while the value of the ADR market to the private investor seems beyond question, there are doubts as to its attractions to the major institutions.

The main thrust of U.S. investment overseas is now coming from the pension funds which have already put more than $7bn of their $700bn funds outside the U.S. and are committed to increasing their proportion of no U.S. investments.

Many pension funds, including American Telephone & Telegraph, General Motors and International Business Machines have made no secret of their plans to diversify abroad.

Trading in ADRs will always have a strong appeal in the U.S where the private investor is a significant force in the securities industry. But, as stock markets become increasingly international in character, ADRs seem likely to play a secondary role as the U.S. institutional investor diversifies overseas.

PLANT INTENDED TO REDUCE RISK OF TRADE FRICTION

Canon to build copier factory in France

BY ALAN CANE, RECENTLY IN TOKYO

CANON, the Japanese optical and electronics company, has reinforced its intention to become one of the world's major multinational companies within five years by announcing the establishment of a new company to make photocopiers in France.

The company, Canon Bretagne SA, has the full approval of the French Government. It will build a 9,000 square metre factory at Liffre, Brittany, some 350 kms west of Paris. Authorised start-up capital is FFr 40m (about $4.9m).

It will be Canon's second factory in Europe – the first is at Giessen, West Germany – and will employ 100 people to make, initially, 3,000 of Canon's tiny personal copiers a month.

Plans are for 10,000 machines a month by the third year of operation.

Canon and Ricoh are the only Japanese manufacturers with copier factories outside Japan.

Canon, with sales of Y580bn ($2.45bn) in 1982, is already the world's largest producer of quality cameras. Its share of the market in new placements of photocopiers worldwide has been estimated at greater than 20 per cent.

The move to build in France is one element in a detailed business plan which calls for the investment of about $2bn over the next five years in plant, automated machinery and research and development.

The French investment is designed *to improve the company's in*ternational presence and to help ease an area of potential trade friction. Mr Ryuzaburo Kaku, president of Canon, said he saw trade friction as a major problem for a company like Canon, with some 70 per cent of its business in exports.

"We are well aware that unemployment is a major problem; but we can go to each of these countries where there is trade friction and offer opportunities for employment," he said.

More than $500m has already been invested in automated manu*facturing equipment in the first* stages of what Canon calls its "Premier company plan." It is moving away from being solely a manufacturer of cameras and optical equipment and into business systems and home information systems.

Within five years it plans to have a 30 per cent maket share in each of its principal product areas: photographic products, business machines and optical products.

Technology, Page 9

UK employers oppose EEC worker participation plan

BY JOHN LLOYD, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR IN LONDON

MAJOR British companies are strongly opposed to the forthcoming European Commission legislation on increased participation by workers in company decision-making. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) now seems certain to urge the Government to veto such legislation – a lobby which is likely to find a sympathetic ear.

The Government intends to publish a discussion document on the EEC proposals – the so-called Vredling and Fifth directives – in October. That paper is expected to rehearse the Commission's position and ask for a response.

The CBI's opposition to this legislation has been immensely strengthened by a survey of its member-companies on the issue.

An enthusiastic response to this survey, now being analysed, shows almost no members in favour of the EEC legislation, though many are in favour of independent, voluntary programmes of greater provision of information, coupled with a modest increase in consultation.

Both the survey and the issue itself will be discussed at next month's CBI Council and will form a major part of the CBI's conference debate on industrial relations in November.

The message from the CBI survey is a dual one. First, companies are unremittingly hostile to statutory obligations. While the proposed legislation has been greatly moderated in the course of its prolonged gestation period, UK companies still see its requirements to inform and consult with workers' representatives over investment, personnel and location decisions, as a major challenge to management rights – especially at a time when UK management feels more self-confident than it has for two decades.

The CBI also believes that its opposition to the legislation may be shared by other European employer organisations and that strong lobbying by each on their national governments may still neuter the forthcoming Brussels package.

In the second place, the UK companies have reported a great increase in worker involvement programmes and are apparently confident of extending and benefiting from this trend.

A number have told the CBI that increased information sharing and involvement have been an indispensable corollary to recent productivity gains and that they plan to continue and extend moves already made.

The formal and determined CBI opposition to the EEC legislation would stiffen the Government's resolve to veto it – though it is recognised that UK opposition might be "traded" for concessions elsewhere in the Brussels melting pot.

The CBI's hand is strengthened by a lack of strong support for the Commission's proposals from the Trades Union Congress. While some TUC leaders and officials are keen, the unions' official opposition to UK membership of the Common Market inhibits it from enthusiastic advocacy.

French troops move closer to Chad war zone

Continued from Page 1

week, detachments yesterday flew about 220 miles north-eastwards from N'Djamena to the township of Salal. This followed the airlift announced on Saturday of other units to Abeche, about 400 miles eastwards, the "capital" of the desert-strewn and sparsely populated eastern part of Chad.

The moves, although made by units which the Paris Government is still proclaiming as "instructors" rather than soldiers seeking active combat, amount to a direct step to block off any rebel advance

News of fighting in the North is difficult to verify, partly because of censorship of reports sent from Western journalists in N'Djamena. Although the conflict seems to have lulled since last week's fall of Faya-Largeau, reports reaching Paris speak of further raids on Friday by Libyan aeroplanes on positions held by government forces to the south of the desert town.

The Paris Government is giving no precise details about the numbers of troops in Chad, or the deployment of French Jaguar fighter-bombers, permanently stationed in nearby African countries. The Defence Ministry yesterday would not confirm reports that some Jaguars – whose assistance has been urgently requested by the Habre Government – had now flow to N'Djamena.

M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, followed the line, developed by M Hernu last week, that France would meet force by force, while at the same time leaving the door open for a rebel pull-back.

Britain 'facing pay talks difficulties'

BY BRIAN GROOM AND JOHN LLOYD IN LONDON

THE BRITISH Government, state industries and private employers face a winter of increasingly difficult negotiations with their workers over pay, conditions and productivity.

This is forecast in a report to be published this week by the influential research company Incomes Data Services (IDS). IDS believes that although there will be calls from the Government for reduced levels of pay rises, a policy of exhortation is unlikely to offset immediate pressures – not just from rising inflation – faced by negotiators at plant level.

IDS says that the 4.5 to 7.5 per cent range of the past nine months will remain stable until the end of 1983. But from November and December onwards, the pressures will grow.

- An increasing number of companies are talking to IDS about their novel problems of "managing success." Buoyant order books, increased output and recruitment of new labour may not be communicated as readily to the workforce as the gloomier news of the recession, but employees are as quick to see changed circumstances in production as the most adept accountant is to forecast profitability." says the report.
- Many companies are moving towards harmonisation of hours and working conditions of staff and manual workers, but experience suggests that problems over differentials are not easy to resolve – and generally cost money.
- Productivity bargains struck during the recession will be tested in those sectors experiencing recovery. Maintaining changed working practices and reduced demarcation may be difficult, while higher output targets will make further productivity improvements more urgent.
- Further moves to reduce working time are in the pipeline, with attendant consequences of harmonisation and differentials problems, and intensified pressures to change working practices and shift-working agreements.

IDS says inflation is set to rise gradually to perhaps between 5 and 6 per cent by end-1983 and then a fraction higher in the first half of 1984. Upward pressure on pay will begin this autumn, but the real pressure on labour costs will come in the forthcoming year, "when the fragile economic recovery is really tested."

The UK Government and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) would like to see settlements lower than last year, at the levels most commonly associated with West Germany. But policy statements of the kind made in the past three summers have so far been absent.

"There is now more caution and less exhortation in the air, and there is the rather fragile economic recovery to be nurtured," comments IDS.

The CBI's pay presentation to its members has so far been low-key, stressing the interdependence of UK companies and the consequent need to keep down pay costs.

Nkomo returns to Harare today

By Michael Holman in London and Tony Hawkins in Harare

MR JOSHUA NKOMO, Zimbabwe's minority party leader who fled to Britain last March, intends to fly home tonight.

Mr Nkomo, whose Zapu party holds 20 of the 80 black seats in *Zimbabwe's parliament, will arrive* in time for Wednesday's government-backed motion calling for him to be unseated because he has missed 21 consecutive sittings of the House of Assembly.

Mr Nkomo, a 65-year old veteran of Zimbabwe politics, told the Financial Times last night that he had spent his time in Britain "trying to work out some way of bringing about a solution to the problems of Zimbabwe."

Army brutality against civilians in Mr Nkomo's home province of Matabeleland in the course of an anti-dissident campaign prompted first the Zapu leader's outspoken denunciation of their conduct and then his flight to Botswana and on to Britain.

"I sent communications and suggestions to Robert Mugabe (the Prime Minister) but did not get a reply," Mr Nkomo said. "But I have decided that I have to be back by Wednesday."

Mr Nkomo said he had received no assurance from Mr Mugabe about his safety. In an interview at the weekend, however, the Prime Minister said that while the Zapu leader might face a small fine for alleged currency offences, he was unlikely to be jailed.

Relations between the ruling Zanu-PF and Zapu would be improved if the Government takes the opportunity on Wednesday to withdraw its parliamentary motion for the expulsion of Mr Nkomo. Debate began last month but was adjourned for a fortnight, ostensibly to give all MPs an opportunity to participate.

But the adjournment may well have been designed to give Mr Nkomo, whose permit to stay in Britain was extended for a further month only last Friday, a chance to return and speak on his own behalf.

Even if unseated there is nothing in the constitution which would prevent his renomination. In this situation the Government may well withdraw the motion, thus creating a more amicable political atmosphere.

Mr Nkomo will be returning to Zimbabwe when his party needs to decide how far it will go in unity talks with Zanu-PF, which would create one dominant party in Zimbabwe politics.

Since he fled to Botswana five months ago, Zapu has appeared leaderless and indecisive. It has been taking part in secret talks with Zanu-PF aimed at uniting the two parties but there appears to have been little progress.

Pessimism over Contadora plan

Continued from Page 1

end about the "good faith" of the Contadora nations and concern that peace negotiations under the Contadora plan would "play into the hands of the Sandinistas and give them respectability".

Significantly, President Reagan made no mention of the Contadora or any other peace initiative in his regular Saturday radio broadcast which he devoted entirely to Central America. He stressed instead, the efforts already made by the U.S. to support democracy in the region with economic and political aid "so that bullets will be replaced by ballots in that troubled region."

The President has recently attempted to focus attention on the economic, rather than the military, aspects of the Central American problem, partly in response to the public nervousness in the U.S. over the large-scale military exercises now being carried out there by U.S. forces, and partly because of criticisms of U.S. policy from the Mexican Government and from leading Mexican-American politicians

THE LEX COLUMN

Lighting a fuse in the stock market

The abolition of fixed commissions is the least that the Stock Exchange could have expected to suffer at the hands of the Restrictive Practices Court. But the agreement to phase them out, reached with the Government, is no less significant for that. Fixed commissions constitute a central joist in the exchange's structure. *How much of* the edifice holds up when they are removed will depend on the strength of the winds swirling around it and the ability of the exchange together with the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry, its new consultant engineers, to design timely and sophisticated reinforcements.

In opting to take the Stock Exchange case out of the hands of the court, the Government displayed a healthy realism. The court was an inappropriate place in which to decide the exchange's future, not only because the relevant legislation was inimical to the practice of self-regulation but also because the case threatened to impose sudden change, the consequences of which would have been wholly unpredictable.

It is unfortunate that the Government then squandered *its* advantage by making a summary judgment itself. Nothing would have been lost by referring the matter to the Monopolies Commission which, with so much evidence already accumulated by both sides, could have established a new point of departure for the exchange within perhaps six months.

As it is, the Government has further undermined the authority of an already beleaguered Office of Fair Trading and, in the matter of single capacity, left itself on a political hook by citing as a precedent the unanalagous situation at Lloyd's. The conflicts of interest which can arise through dual capacity in a fragmented insurance market with no exposed price structure and an unenviable record of malpractice are quite different from those in the Stock Exchange.

Of the proposed changes, the decision on commissions is the most significant. The achievement of the Stock Exchange in anticipating and responding to change over the past decade should not be underestimated. The introduction of computerised settlement and display services, the traded options market and the USM are not the work of an institutional ostrich.

But, like the most recent proposals for outside equity ownership, lay membership of the exchange's council and board participation by non-members in member firms, these changes have not threatened the existence of the central market or the exchange's control over it. When fixed commissions go, the London securities market will have finally cut loose from its moorings.

The change is already overdue, and, from the viewpoint of the Stock Exchange, may come too late. *So long as fixed commissions are in* place, financial intermediaries will make markets in British securities outside Threadneedle Street and, as the recent surge in trading of UK equities in New York has shown, outside London altogether.

The internationalisation of securities markets is being hastened by the rapid development of electronic information systems. Increasingly, dealing and distribution facilities are being incorporated in the television monitors, threatening the predominance of the physical market-place. Morevover, the proliferation of hedging instruments, such as currency futures, is encouraging the fund manager to invest abroad.

The challenge *facing* the Stock Exchange is to adjust its own practices in such a way as to protect the position of its members, while retaining a regulated central market and adequate safeguards for investors. In the light of the changes outside its walls, that is no easy task.

The 3½-year period which it has been allowed to phase out fixed commissions looks too long. The exchange may be firing a shot in the dark but there is little point in postponing it in the hope that the light clears up. In practice, the exchange can be expected to move much faster than this. It would be disappointing if gilt-edged commissions – the main sticking point as far as the institutions are concerned – were not freed early next year.

Precisely how negotiated commissions will affect member-firms is impossible to judge. Substantial cost economies can certainly be made, defensive mergers among smaller firms may become commonplace and distinctions between full-service firms, specialists and discount operators will become pronounced.

The future of the Stock Exchange itself, however, will probably be determined by how it handles change in two key areas: capacity and membership. The exchange recognises that negotiated commissions may prove incompatible with single capacity and, on balance, that single capacity will ultimately go.

Apart from the likelihood that negotiated rates will encourage brokers to make their own markets, the protection afforded by separation of capacity may come to be seen as a point largely of academic interest. In order to protect themselves from a commission war, brokers can be expected to diversify towards fee-earning services, such as corporate finance and fund management, each of which raise potential conflicts of interest. The ex*change and the Government may* find it increasingly hard to justify making an issue of capacity, particularly as an exposed electronic market may guarantee a fairer price to the investor that a system like the present one in which a single jobber monopolises market-making in many individual securities.

The exchange must also be aware that separation of capacity inhibits member firms from developing the broad expertise in both jobbing and broking which is needed to compete effectively in other financial markets.

If the capacity question is to be tackled, however, then so must membership. The worst of all possible worlds would be to enable foreign securities firms and other British financial insitutions to make markets in London without enabling Stock Exchange members to raise the capital to compete.

The Stock Exchange will need very soon to consider opening membership to firms with unlimited liability. If it fails on this score, Nomura and Merrill Lynch may decide that they can get on very nicely without the Stock Exchange and the central market will fragment.

The trick is to do it without submerging existing members under a tide of foreign capital and without debilitating the compensation fund. In practice, the expertise and client relationships of existing firms should, with informal help from the Bank and DTI, be sufficient to obvi*ate the first danger. The second can* probably be diminshed by the introduction of third party insurance arrangements, both for the fund itself and for members. The advantages of increasing competition in London and enabling member firms to secure the capital to compete elsewhere must ultimately outweigh the risks.

The task facing the Stock Exchange and its monitors is extremely delicate. The institution's evolution will be uneven and decisions taken about its future may appear inconsistent. A guiding principle, however, must be that all decisions are taken with an eye on developments outside the Stock Exchange floor and are backed by the fullest explanation.

World Weather

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Ajaccio	S	27	81	Dubrovnik	S	27	81	Malaga	S	[illegible]	[illegible]	Salzburg	F	20	68
Akrotiri	S	28	82	Faro	S	23	73	Malta	S	29	84	Seoul	S	32	90
Algiers	S	32	90	Florence	S	28	82	Manila	R	30	86	Singapore	R	29	84
Amsterdam	C	18	64	Frankfurt	C	17	63	Miami	R	34	93	Stockholm	C	17	63
Athens	F	28	82	Funchal	F	25	77	Milan	S	25	77	Strasbourg	S	21	70
Bahrain	-	—	—	Geneva	S	22	72	Moscow	R	17	63	Sydney	-	—	—
Bangkok	-	—	—	Gibraltar	S	26	79	Munich	S	18	64	Taipei	C	34	93
Barcelona	F	28	82	Guernsey	S	20	68	Nairobi	-	—	—	Tangier	F	24	75
Beirut	-	—	—	Helsinki	F	16	61	Naples	S	29	84	Tehran	-	—	—
Belgrade	F	22	72	H. Kong	R	29	84	New Delhi	C	34	93	Tel Aviv	S	31	88
Berlin	C	17	63	Innsbruck	S	21	70	New York	S	21	70	Tenerife	S	26	79
Biarritz	F	24	75	Inverness	S	23	73	Nice	S	27	81	Tokyo	S	31	88
Blackpool	S	23	73	Istanbul	F	26	79	Oporto	C	21	70	Toronto	S	24	75
Bordeaux	S	25	77	Jersey	S	22	72	Oslo	S	18	64	Tunis	S	32	90
Brussels	C	17	63	Jo'burg	-	—	—	Paris	C	19	66	Valencia	S	30	86
Budapest	S	22	72	Las Palmas	F	24	75	Prague	C	16	61	Venice	S	24	75
B. Aires	-	—	—	Lima	C	22	72	Reykjavik	C	11	52	Vienna	F	20	68
Cairo	-	—	—	Lisbon	C	22	72	Rio de J'o	C	32	90	Warsaw	F	18	64
Cape Town	-	—	—	Locarno	S	25	77	Rome	S	28	82	Zurich	S	21	70
Caracas	-	—	—	London	S	25	77								
Casablanca	S	23	73	Los Angeles	S	28	82								
Copenhagen	S	20	68	Luxembourg	C	18	64								
Corfu	S	30	86	Madrid	S	29	84								
Dublin	S	24	75	Majorca	S	28	82								

Readings at mid-day yesterday

C–Cloudy D–Drizzle F–Fair Fg–Fog H–Hail R–Rain S–Sun Sl–Sleet Sn–Snow T–Thunder

Quota threat to BL

Continued from Page 1

hicles are heavily restricted by offering British-built versions there.

The Acclaim is built by Austin Rover under licence from Honda of Japan. Austin Rover says it is 72 to 74 per cent British by ex-factory value and that arrangement has been so successful that the two countries have a joint venture executive car, code named XX, due to be launched in 1985. Austin Rover will build both a version for sale under its own Rover badge, and the Honda version for sale throughout the Japanese group's network in the EEC.

The UK Government, particularly concerned about the possible impact towards inward investment in Britain, has already started discussions about the French proposals.

Austin Rover said yesterday it was aware of the French proposals, but was not directly involved because the changes would not in any way put a curb on Acclaim exports to France.

Since its launch in September, 1981, about 75,000 Acclaims have been sold in Britain, where it regularly has been taking 2 to 3 per cent of total new car sales and doing the job BL had in mind for it. About 20,000 Acclaims have been sold in Europe, so far, of which 2,800 went to France in 1982.

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SECTION II – COMPANIES AND MARKETS
FINANCIAL TIMES
Monday August 15 1983

INTERNATIONAL CREDITS

IMF expected to open way for $1.5bn loan to Argentina

BY MARGARET HUGHES IN LONDON

ALL EYES will be focused today on the meeting in Washington of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board, which has been called out of recess to assess Argentina's economic performance. The meeting has been convened 10 days ahead of schedule following the blocking by the Thatcher Government of British bank's participation in the $1.5bn commercial bank loan.

The IMF board is expected to confirm that Argentina has met all the criteria necessary for the disbursement of the third tranche of its $2.15bn loan package. In addition to economic targets these criteria include the lifting of discrimination against any IMF member, including Britain.

This confirmation should also give the green light for British banks to participate in the loan signing, due to begin in New York tomorrow. It would also allow the release of the remaining $300m of an earlier $1.1bn bridging loan, needed to repay interest payments due in May, which has also been held up by British Government intervention.

Argentine sanctions against British companies have over the past few weeks become the latest in a series of obstacles to completion of the commercial bank loans which has been under negotiation since the beginning of this year. Although both the IMF and banks involved were last week satisfied that Argentina had lifted the sanctions it was not enough for the British Government. Even on Friday, when a number of British companies had confirmed that they were now able to repatriate funds, the Whitehall line was still that it needed concrete evidence that it was both generalised and permanent.

The UK instruction to banks last Thursday not to sign until the IMF board had confirmed that Argentina had met all the necessary criteria would in the normal course of events have provided the Thatcher Government with another fortnight in which to convince itself that sanctions had been seen to have been lifted, since the IMF was not due to meet on the Argentine issue until August 24. Now that the meeting has been brought forward to today, the British Government concedes that it will have little option but to allow British banks to sign the loan if the IMF formally gives its approval, although it is clearly not happy with the idea.

In the meantime, the Argentine legislative watchdog body, the CAL, was reported at the end of last week to be meeting to approve an amendment to the loan signing. At issue here is Celulosa Argentina, the privately-owned paper manufacturer which owes $150m to foreign creditors. Under present law the latter are subordinate to domestic creditors and so face delays of up to 15 years in any repayment.

Completion of the $1.5bn commercial bank loan scheduled for August 25 will bring a sigh of relief to bankers and the Argentine Economy Minister.

Worries remain over Brazil, whose arrears have now reached the $2bn mark. The IMF had apparently last week reached agreement with the Brazilians at a technical level, and the BIS is expected to allow a delay in the second bridging loan repayment due at the end of this month. But release of the overdue tranche of the IMF loan still seems a long way off. One view is that bankers may now be asked to provide much needed new money before the IMF disbursement. Recourse to the Paris Club is becoming increasingly likely too.

EUROBONDS

E.T. of a different kind

BY MARY ANN SIEGHART IN LONDON

A SPATE of E.T.s hit the Eurodollar bond market last week – not the bug-eyed creatures from outer space, though they seemed almost as alien to many investors. No, these are Euro-Treasury warrants – options to buy a specific U.S. Treasury bond at some time in the future.

The first sign of these new warrants came from Gary Kelsch of Quadrex Securities on Tuesday. Quadrex's first deal as lead manager involved 300,000 warrants on behalf of the U.S. conglomerate Transamerica, each of which entitled the holder to buy, within a year and at a price of 92, a 10¾ per cent U.S. Treasury bond maturing in 2012.

Despite Quadrex having taken out full-page advertisements in three national newspapers on the morning the warrants were launched, not enough people were prepared to buy them at the minimum tender price of $49.50 each, and by lunchtime the deal was pulled.

It was the pricing that caused the problem, not the idea. Quadrex was asking investors to pay a premium of about 11 per cent over the current price of the relevant U.S. Treasury bond. Or to put it another way, the bond yield would have had to drop by 128 basis points within a year for the investor to break even.

The obvious ploy, then, was to use the same idea at a more realistic price. Both Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers did just that on Thursday.

Salomon's deal, on behalf of its parent company, Phibro Salomon, involved two tranches of 250,000 warrants each. One set entitled the holder to buy the same bond as Quadrex – the 10⅜ of 2012 – and the other was for a 10-year security with a 10⅛ per cent coupon. The warrant for the long bond was priced at $32½ and the 10-year one at $27½.

Unlike Quadrex, Salomon did not set a striking price at once. But it suggested that the price would be fixed tomorrow at a premium of five points for the long bond and four for the 10-year.

Merrill Lynch, on behalf of Merrill Lynch Government Securities, said it hoped to sell between 300,000 and 500,000 warrants to buy the same long bond as Salomon's and Quadrex' deals.

Here, though, the whole deal was priced immediately. Each warrant was to cost $18¾ and the striking price was set at $91¼. In constrast to Salomon's offer, these warrants are valid only for six months, which is why they are cheaper.

By Friday afternoon in London, the 10⅜ bond of 2012 was selling at around 88. That would give premiums of 9.4 per cent for the longer Salomon warrant and 6.4 per cent for Merrill's one.

Or, in other words, buyers of the Merrill warrant would have to see a fall in the bond's yield of 74 basis points to break even, and in the case of the Salomon warrant, just over 100 points.

From the point of view of the borrower, this is an arbitrage opportunity rather than a means of raising money. After all, $15m to a house like Salomon or Merrill is virtually peanuts. What the two houses hope to do is to exploit the arbitrage differentials thrown up by playing the options and financial futures markets in Chicago.

As several professionals pointed out last week, they could dabble in those markets and would probably find it cheaper than buying Merrill or Salomon warrants and exercising them.

But not all investors have access to those markets, and even if they do, there are advantages to buying the warrants instead. First and foremost, they are simpler to understand than the complex markets of futures and options.

There are no fees or commissions to pay and the downside risk is limited. Finally, in Salomon's case at least, their life is longer than most options or futures, whose liquidity becomes very limited after six or nine months.

It is not difficult to see why an option to buy a U.S. Treasury bond might be an attractive investment now. U.S. Treasury yields have actually overtaken those of Eurobonds, despite the cast-iron credit rating of the issuer.

But investors who are wary of the strength of the U.S. dollar and who feel that it is likely to depreciate are better off putting up only a tiny percentage now of the striking price and paying the balance in cheaper dollars later.

Some market participant suggested that these are attempts both to make some money in an otherwise ailing market and perhaps even to relieve the boredom that many new issue managers are feeling during this "silly season."

By Friday evening, both deals were doing reasonably well. Co-managers of the Salomon issue reported that they were steadily managing to move the warrants, and Merrill claimed to have sold more than its minimum target of 300,000.

Another interesting piece of news last week concerned Goldman Sachs' ICI deal. This was the $100m, 6¼ per cent 1991 issue launched in May, which carried both a currency conversion option into sterling and warrants to buy ICI shares.

The deal flopped disastrously soon after it was issued, falling to a 12-point discount within a week.

International Capital Markets Review

PROPERTY BACKED BONDS

Japan's banks jump on the bandwagon to attract funds

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

FACED with a massive outflow of funds from time deposits to the higher yielding investment instruments offered by the securities houses, Japan's banks are moving into property backed bonds as a way of giving keener competition for funds.

Property secured bonds have been in existence for quite a long time but have only recently attracted widespread interest. They are issued by brokers on behalf of small to medium sized corporations, local government bodies, hospitals and universities. These institutions have difficulty raising funds by other means due to the strict issue requirements.

The attraction of the bonds for the institutions are that they are long term loans of 15 to 25 years and are easily broken up into short or medium-term securities for sale to ordinary investors in Y500,000 ($2,040) or Y1m lots. Interest rates payable are comparable with those of the banks.

For the investor, they have the primary attraction of high yields. A one-year bond carries a return as high as 7.3 per cent, a two-year 7.6 per cent and a three-year 7.9 per cent. For comparison, a two-year government bond has a yield of 6.8 per cent.

The bonds are also easily turned back into cash as investors have the right to sell them back to the issuer with only a small penalty and hence, funds remain highly liquid.

Finally this type of bond benefits from tax exemption on income up to a maximum of Y2.5m. This comes in addition to a Y3m exemption on income from bank deposits, post office deposits and national or local government bonds, and the investor can, by purchasing property backed bonds, seek to maximise his tax privileges.

Until recently, almost all the trade in such bonds was handled by one company, Nippon Teito Shoken, an associate of Fuji Bank. The total amount of loans covered by property backed bonds issued by Nippon Teito has grown rapidly over the last two years, from Y9.8bn in March 1981 to Y36.7bn in March 1983.

In the main the banks are concentrating their sales to investors who stand to gain most from the tax advantages of income from these bonds.

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES

Borrowers	Amount m.	Maturity	Av. life years	Coupon %	Price	Lead Manager	Offer yield %
U.S. DOLLARS							
BNP †‡	300	1991	8	5¼∅	100	BNP, CSFB	–
BNP †‡	100	1991	8	5¼∅	100	Saudi Intl. Bk.	–
Daiwa Secs. §‡	40	1998	15	5½	100	Daiwa Europe, CSFB	5.500
Daiwa Secs. §‡	20	1998	15	5½	100	DBS-Daiwa Secs.	5.500
Mtge. Bank of Denmark †‡	150	1993	10	5¼∅	100	BA Intl.	–
CANADIAN DOLLARS							
Toronto Dominion Mtge. Corp. ‡	40	1988	5	12½	100	Morgan Stanley	12.500

Borrowers	Amount m.	Maturity	Av. life years	Coupon %	Price	Lead Manager	Offer yield %
SWISS FRANCS							
Bk. of Tokyo ‡	100	1991	–	6	100	UBS	6.000
Sumitomo Electric **§‡	100	1988	–	3½	100	CS	3.500
Taiyo Yuden **§‡	50	1989	–	3½	100	CS	3.500
Sankyo Seiki Mfg. **§‡	50	1988	–	3½	100	SBC	3.500
Hasma-Gumi **¶	50	1988	–	4½	*	Paribas (Suisse)	*
GUILDERS							
Bk. Mees & Hope **‡	75	1988	5	9	100	Bk. Mees & Hope	9.000
LUX. FRANCS							
Svenska Handelsbanken **‡	250	1989	5½	10¾	100	Kredietbank Lux.	10.750

* Not yet priced. ‡ Final terms. ** Placement. † Floating rate note. ∅ Minimum. § Convertible. ¶ With warrants. Note: Yields are calculated on AIBD basis.

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS AND COMPANIES

U.S. BONDS

Fresh optimism after weeks in the doldrums

THE U.S. corporate credit markets have been in the doldrums. Over the past ten weeks new issue volume has dwindled, prices have sunk and yields have risen—at the long end, by about 1.5 percentage points.

The general malaise of the corporate credit markets mirrored that of the government sector where investor nervousness was heightened by concern about monetary growth, inflationary pressures, a marked upturn in U.S. short-term interest rates, and the now frequently talked about possible clash between Government deficit funding needs and private sector credit demands as the U.S. economic recovery outpaced all previous estimates.

Corporate short-term credit demand, for the time being at least, remains weak. For example the volume of commercial paper outstanding at the start of August was $172.9bn, barely up on the $169.4bn outstanding at the end of May.

U.S. corporations have continued to cut substantially their short-term borrowings, reacting to the sizeable rundown in manufacturing and trade inventories, the accompanying broad cuts in industry capital spending programmes, and to the still pressing need to restructure badly skewed company balance sheets.

The upturn in corporate profits in the first and second quarters has also helped minimise short-term funding requirements. Thus through the first six months of the year commercial and industrial loans from banks registered little growth compared to an increase of about $25bn in the same period last year.

The process of restructuring battered corporate balance sheets appeared to be proceeding apace during the first few months of the year aided by declining bond yields and the relative health of the market.

While many corporate treasurers switched their attentions to the equity market, corporate debt underwritings also showed a surge. In the first five months of the year there were 261 straight debt underwritings totalling $24.4bn compared to 140 issues totalling $15.5bn in the same period last year.

Reflecting the strength of the equity market and the saving in financing costs to corporate treasurers, convertible debt offerings also surged totalling 62 new issues worth $4.5bn in the first five months compared to just eight issues totalling $507.8m in the 1982 period.

But the picture changed dramatically in June. Between the start of June and the end of last week a mere $4bn in new corporate debt was issued according to First Boston, the Wall Street investment bank.

New issue volume, which for much of the first quarter was running 75 per cent ahead of the same period last year, has dropped back substantially. At end of last week, corporate debt issues this year totalled $28.314bn, up just 18 per cent over the same period last year.

While many corporate treasurers are hoping for an improvement in market conditions, as evidenced by the $45bn of new debt issues sitting on the Rule 415 shelf for possible future introduction into the market, actual new issue volume over the last 10 weeks has all but dried up.

U.S. INTEREST RATES (%)	Week to Aug 12	Week to Aug 5
Fed funds wkly aver	9.66	9.58
3-month CDs	9.48	9.40
3-month T-bills	9.90	9.75
30-year Treas bond	11.97	12.04
AAA Utility	13.13	13.13
AA Industrial	13.00	13.00

Source: Salomon Bros. (estimates). In the week ended August 10 M1 rose by $400m to $517.6bn. In July M2 rose by $11bn to $2,125.8bn and M3 rose by $10.9bn to $2,509.9bn.

The reluctance of U.S. corporations to tap the credit markets largely reflects prices in the market itself. Between the start of June and last week the yield on a Triple A utility long bond had moved from 11.75 per cent to over 13.2 per cent and the yield on a long Double A industrial bond had increased by almost as much.

Faced with this price constraint, major new debt issues over the past 10 weeks have been few and far between.

Among the new issues which have made it into the market place, utilities have been the most active.

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph launched a $250m issue of 40-year-long bonds in mid-June priced to yield 11.97 per cent. Well Ohio power company launched a $60m issue of 30-year fixed mortgage bonds and Arizona Public Service Company sold $100m of 30-year fixed mortgage bonds.

Among the banks Citicorp sold $125m of 15-year floating rate notes and First City Bancorp of Texas sold $100m of five-year floating rate notes.

Last week Humana, the health care company, sold $100m of 30-year bonds to yield 13.93 per cent and Merrill Lynch came to the market with a $200m issue of eight-year floating rate notes.

Two major communications companies also tapped the market. GTE Corporation sold $100m of 10-year bonds with a 12.45 per cent coupon priced at par off the shelf while MCI Corporation stole the show with what is believed to be one of the largest corporate debt issues ever.

MCI raised $1bn, double the initially planned offering, with an issue consisting of 1m units of $1,000 face value of 10-year notes priced at par and sold with 18 five-year warrants to buy MCI shares at $55 each. The issue, which sold out reasonably quickly, was rated BAA-3 by Moody's and Double B plus by Standard and Poor's, and was managed by Drexel Burnham Lambert and Shearson American Express. The proceeds will be used by the company to accelerate its capital spending programme.

U.S. treasury bond prices surged late on Friday after the Federal Reserve Board announced a much smaller than expected increase in M1, the basic money supply measure.

The announcement appeared to reinforce a slightly more optimistic mood in the credit markets apparent towards the end of the week.

The new 12 per cent treasury long bond, auctioned the week before last, closed at 102$\frac{1}{32}$ to yield 11.71 per cent, a gain of more than two points on the day. The price of the new long bond improved steadily throughout the week with the yield dropping from a high of 12.18 per cent on Monday after the major U.S. banks lifted the prime rate by half a percentage point to 11 per cent.

The improvement reflected a slight change in market psychology in part in response to the latest economic statistics which suggested that the pace of the economic recovery may be moderating.

The money supply figures announced on Friday helped reinforce this sentiment. M1 grew by $400m in the latest statement week compared to market expectations of between $1.5bn and $4bn.

Although M1 remains over the Fed's recently revised five to nine per cent growth range, the July M2, and M3 figures, which also showed smaller than expected $11bn and $10.9bn increases respectively, leave the broader money aggregates comfortably within targets.

Paul Taylor

Revitalised Paris bourse sees surge in trading

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

The Paris stock market, undergoing a period of revitalisation after the steady drop in its importance in recent years, will be closed until Wednesday this week for an internal face-lift.

Builders have been at work since the end of last week renewing the trading floor. This is in preparation for the phasing out of the archaic system of two-tier "cash" and "term" sectors and the move a single dealing market on October 24.

The move is the latest in a series of initiatives by both the bourse authorities and the Socialist government which has helped give a significant boost to share trading this year, in spite of the depressed economic environment.

The measures include tax incentives to encourage equity investment by individuals (a continuation and extension of the efforts made under the previous Giscard government); the setting-up of an over-the-counter market to boost share flotations by small companies; and government regulations to relax dividend controls on companies making rights issues.

French shares quoted on the Paris bourse have risen by more than 30 per cent this year measured by the CAC general index (131.2 on August 11), partly because of Wall Street's firmness but also because of the changes in domestic bourse regulations. Market capitalisation, which was depleted by about FFr 30bn by the large-scale nationalisations in February 1982, rose by FFr 56.5bn or 28 per cent in the first seven months of the year, taking it to FFr 260.3bn ($31.8bn) by end-July.

Demand, however, has been even heavier for foreign shares. The firmness of the domestic market is also explained by exchange controls on French equity purchases abroad, as well as by the weakness of traditional alternative investments like property, gold and (over the past few weeks) bonds.

As an indication of activity, total bourse trading—in both equities and bonds—in July was FFr 24.2bn, slightly down from the FFr 27.0 bn in June—but up 74 per cent from July 1982. Total activity has risen more than 60 per cent in the first seven months of the year compared with last year—and 1982 transactions were themselves 33 per cent up on the highly depressed level of 1981.

Bond trading in July made up about 63 per cent of bourse turnover, with the rest being in equities both on the official market and the newly-introduced "second" (or "over-the-counter") market for small company share flotations.

This sector started up in February, allowing companies to bring portions of 10 per cent of their shares to the market and cutting down on bureaucracy and introduction costs. So far this year 11 new companies have been attracted, led by Sodexho, the catering group, the rubber boat maker Zodiac, the ice cream manufacturer Ortiz-Miko and several enterprising small businesses.

The Paris stock brokers association's target of bringing 30 new companies into the market in its first two years of business now seems to be on the way to being fulfilled.

Parallel to the rise in turnover and share prices on the official market, rights issues have spurted this year. New share issues to raise capital totalled FFr 5.5bn in the first seven months of the year, more than 50 per cent up from the overall figure of FFr 3.5bn for 1982.

Additionally a series of nationalised companies, Saint Gobain, Rhone Poulenc, Thomson and (expected next month) Compagnie Generale d'Electricitie, have returned to the market with fund raising issues of "participatory certificates" (non-voting loan stocks), totalling FFr 2.7bn altogether.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

New energy post at World Bank

● Mr Jean-Loup Dherse, who has been an executive director of Rio Tinto-Zinc Corp. (RTZ) since 1977, has at the request of the WORLD BANK in Washington ben given leave of absence from the corporation to take up a newly-created position with the bank, of vice president, energy and industry. Mr Dherse will be resigning as a director of RTZ on September 21.

● Mr W. Keith Smith has been elected executive vice president of the CROCKER BANK. He will be the chief financial officer of Crocker National Corp. and its principal subsidiary, the Crocker Bank. He will be responsible for finance, economics, treasury and investor relations. He will join Crocker in early September. Mr Smith has been employed by the Bank of Montreal since 1980, where he was senior vice president and comptroller.

● Paul W. Douglas has resigned as president and chief executive officer of FREEPORT-McMORAN INC. (FMI). Mr. Benno C. Schmidt, chairman of the board of FMI, has become chairman and chief executive officer. Mr Milton H. Ward has joined the board of FMI and become president of Freeport Minerals, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMI. Nils A. Kindwall, senior vice president-Finance of FMI, has also been elected to FMI's board.

● Westland has formed a wholly-owned subsidiary company, WESTLAND INC. to represent Westland Group activities in the U.S., Central America and the Caribbean. Mr Robert J. Gladwell has been appointed its president and chief executive officer. Mr Gladwell has held senior executive positions in British Aerospace Inc., and Rolls-Royce Inc. The chairman will be Sir John Treacher, who is also group marketing director of Westland and has been a member of the main board for five years. Mr H. P. Stewart, group financial director, Westland, has also become a director.

● HUDSON BAY MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY has appointed Mr Allen T. Lambert chairman. Mr Lambert succeeds Mr Reuben F. Richards, who is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Hudson Bay Mining's parent firm, Inspiration Resources Corp. of New York. Hudson Bay Mining became a wholly-owned unit of Inspiration Resources on July 6. Mr Lambert has been a director of Hudson Bay Mining since 1966.

● THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has appointed Mr Stephen Burrows to the new post of executive vice-president, North America from October 1. Mr Burrows is senior vice-president and manager of the New York branch. Also taking up appointments in North America are Mr James D. Paton, senior representative and agent at the bank's San Francisco representative office, and Mr John G. Holmes, assistant manager at the bank's Ayr, Sandgate, branch. Mr Paton is to become senior vice-president, New York representative office and manager, New York branch, and Mr Holmes is to become senior representative and agent at the bank's San Francisco representative office.

Finance for HK housing project

HONG KONG—An international property consortium, Triprofit Enterprises, has mandated a three-year HK$1.4bn (US$197m) loan to finance a major housing project.

The deal, which will be signed on August 18, will cover a large residential development under the Government's private sector participation scheme.

According to bankers BA Asia is acting as sole lead manager and agent for the loan, interest on which is expected to be based on the Hong Kong interbank offered rate (Hibor).

Reuter

R J Reynolds may sell container shipping offshoot

BY PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

R. J. REYNOLDS INDUSTRIES, the U.S. diversified tobacco and consumer goods group, is considering selling Sea-Land Service, the largest container shipping company in the world.

R. J. Reynolds disclosed the possibility of the sale in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing in July according to the Journal of Commerce newspaper.

In the filing the company said it is "considering the feasibility and desirability of divestment of its ocean transport operations, including possible divestment by way of spinning off." However the filing adds that R. J. Reynolds has made no final decision yet.

In 1982 Sea-Land Industries Investments, Sea-Land's parent company, had transportation revenues of $1.58bn and earnings from operations of $157m compared to $103m in 1981.

However in the first half of this year Sea-Land's earnings from operations slipped to $53m compared to $81m in the same period last year and revenues fell to $781m from $820m.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

U.S. DOLLAR STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	week	Yield
Amex O/S Fin. 10¼ 90	100	90¾	91¼	+0¼	−0¼	12.28
Bk. of Amer. 8 88 XW	150	83¾	84¼	−0¼	−1¼	12.83
Bk. of Tokyo Hd. 11 90	100	92¼	92¾	+0¼	0	12.70
Brit. Col. Hyd. 10½ 88	200	94¾	95¼	+0¼	+0¼	11.68
Candair 12½ 89	175	100	100½	+0½	+0¼	12.41
CCCE 11¾ 97	100	92	92½	+0½	+0½	12.94
CIBC 11 90	75	94¼	94¾	+1¼	+1¼	12.25
Citicorp O/S 10⅝ 90	100	88¾	89¼	+0¼	−1¼	12.85
Coca Cola Int. 9⅞ 92	100	88	88½	+0¼	−0½	12.09
Cr. Suisse Bah. 10⅜ 90	150	94¾	95¼	+0¼	−0⅞	11.62
Credit Suisse 10½ 89	100	94¾	95¼	−0½	−1¼	11.66
Den Norsk Crd. 11¼ 93	50	91¼	91¾	+0¼	−0¼	12.80
Du Pont 11½ 95	150	96¼	96¾	+0¼	−0¼	11.82
EDC 10⅝ 88	100	95	95½	+0¼	+0¼	12.15
EDC 11¾ 87	100	98¼	98¾	+0¼	+0¼	12.28
EDF 11¾ 93	100	90¼	90¾	+0¼	+0½	12.89
EEC 10½ 95	75	88¼	88¾	+0¼	+0¼	12.60
EEC 11 87	350	96¼	96¾	+0¼	+0¼	12.12
EIB 10½ 93	200	89¾	90¼	+0¼	+0¼	12.56
EIB 11 91	125	91¾	92¼	+0¼	+0¼	12.67
Electrolux 10½ 90	50	90½	91	+0¼	+0¼	12.58
Enserch Fin. 11¾ 93	100	92¾	93¼	0	−1¼	12.88
Fuji Int. Fin. 10⅞ 90	100	90¼	90¾	+0½	−0¼	13.08
Gaz de France 12¼ 93	175	94½	95	+0¼	−0¼	13.21
Gen. Elec. Credit 9¾ 91	100	88	88½	+0¼	−0¼	12.73
GMAC O/S Fin. 10½ 90	200	93	93½	+0¼	−1	12.03
Honeywell Int. 10¼ 90	100	94¾	95¼	+0¼	−0¼	11.88
Ind. Bk. Japan 10⅞ 88	100	94¾	95¼	+0¼	−0¼	12.34
Japan Air Lines 10⅞ 98	42	88	88½	+0½	−1½	12.65
Japan Air Lines 11 93	75	91¼	91¾	+0½	−0½	12.53
Levi Strauss Int. 11 90	75	93¼	93¾	+0¼	−1	12.42
LTCB 10⅝ 90	100	89¾	90¼	+0½	−0¼	13.00
Merrill Lynch 10⅝ 90	200	91¾	92¼	+0¼	−0½	12.42
Midland Int. F. 11¼ 92	150	94	94½	+0¼	+0¼	12.55
Mitsubishi Con. 10½ 90	100	90¾	91¼	+1½	+0⅞	12.56
Mitsubishi Fin. 11¼ 90	100	93	93½	+0¼	+0¼	12.90
Nippon Credit 11 90	100	91	91½	+0½	−0½	13.00
Nippon Credit 11¾ 93	100	92	92½	+0¼	+1	12.67
OKB 10 91	100	86¾	87¼	+0½	+0¼	12.72
Ontario Hydro 10⅜ 90	250	90¾	91¼	+0½	0	12.29
Ontario Hydro 11⅝ 89	200	97¼	97¾	+0¼	0	11.82
Ontario Hydro 12¾ 92	200	100½	101	+0¼	−0¼	12.59
Prudential O/S 10⅝ 93	100	92½	93	+0¼	−0½	11.90
Prudential O/S 12⅜ 87	150	102¼	102¾	+0¼	+0¼	11.96
Quebec Hy. 11½ 92 (D)	100	97¼	97¾	+0¼	+0¼	11.98
Sasktchwn. Pr 10⅜ 90	125	92¼	92¾	+0¼	−0½	12.42
SNCF 11½ 93	150	93¾	94¼	+0¼	+0¼	12.56
S. Cal. Edison 10⅝ 90	75	93¼	93¾	0	−0¼	11.90
Sumitomo Fin. 10⅝ 90	100	90¾	91¼	+0½	+0½	12.95
Swiss Bk. Cpn. 10⅝ 90	125	95	95½	0	−0⅞	11.30
Texaco Capital 9¾ 90	150	90¼	90¾	+0¼	−0¼	11.88
UBS 10 88	150	96¼	96¾	+0¼	−0¼	10.96
UBS 11 88	150	99½	100	+0¼	−0¼	11.03
Westpac Int. Fin. 11 90	100	†92¼	92¾	0	+0¼	12.69
World Bank 10⅝ 88	150	94¼	94¾	+0¼	+0¼	11.98
World Bank 10⅞ 93	100	91¼	91¾	+0½	0	12.43
World Bank 11⅝ 98	100	92¾	93¼	+0¼	+0¼	12.17
Average price changes... On day +0¼ on week −0¼						

DEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	week	Yield
Air Canada 7½ 93	100	97¾	98¼	+0¼	−0¼	7.87
ANAS 8¼ 88	100	99¼	99¾	+0¼	+0¼	8.37
Austria, Rep. 7⅝ 89	100	98¾	99¼	+0¼	−0¼	7.86
Austria, Rep. 8 93	100	99¼	99¾	+0½	+0¼	8.09
BFCE 8¼ 90	150	99¼	99¾	+0¼	+0¼	8.34
Comp. T. N. Esp. 8¼ 93	100	93¼	93¾	0	0	9.58
Deuts. Bk. 3½ 91 WW	240	105½	106½	+0¼	−2¼	2.88
Deuts. Bank 3½ 91 XW	240	79¼	79¾	+0¼	−0¼	7.27
Dresdner Fin. 4 90 WW	250	106½	107¼	+1¼	−1¼	2.90
Dresdner Fin. 4 90 XW	250	80¾	81¼	+0¼	−0¼	7.62
EEC 8¼ 93	250	99¾	100¼	+0¼	−0¼	8.24
ESCOM 8½ 90	150	99¼	100¼	+0¼	−0¼	8.48
Eurofima 7½ 90	100	†97¼	97¾	+0¼	−0¼	7.98
Eurofima 7½ 91	100	98¾	99¼	+0¼	−0¼	7.62
Ferrovie Dello 8⅜ 88	150	102¼	103	0	+0½	7.98
Finland Rep. 7½ 88	150	98½	99½	+0¼	0	7.75
Japan Devt. Bk. 7¾ 90	100	†98	98½	0	+0⅞	7.83
Int.-Am. Dv. Bk. 7¾ 93	200	94¼	94¾	+0¼	−0⅞	8.60
Ireland 8½ 90	150	99¼	99¾	+0¼	−0¼	8.59
Kobe City 7 93	120	94	94½	+0¼	−0⅞	7.84
Mount Isa Fin. 7⅝ 90	100	98¼	98¾	0	+0¼	7.91
Renault Accptnce. 8 90	150	96¼	96¾	0	0	8.72
SDF France 7⅞ 93	100	96¼	96¾	+0¼	−0¼	8.48
S. African Tran. 8¼ 90	100	98½	99	+0¼	−0¼	8.49
Volkswagen Int. 7¾ 93	200	96½	96¾	+0¼	−0¼	7.87
World Bank 7½ 93	300	95¾	96¼	+0½	+0¼	8.16
Average price changes... On day +0¼ on week −0¼						

SWISS FRANC STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	week	Yield
Akzo 5⅝ 93	100	97¾	98¼	+0¼	−0¼	5.90
Bergen, City of 5¾ 95	40	99¼	99¾	+0¼	−0¼	5.81
BTR Finance 5⅝ 93	75	97¼	97½	+0¼	−0¼	5.99
Carls-Tuborg B. 5¾ 93	60	100½	100¾	−0¼	−0½	5.66
Chujitsuya Co. 5⅞ 93	50	96½	96¾	0	0	6.36
Denmark 6⅝ 91	100	†101¼	101¼	0	−0¼	6.13
EDC 5⅝ 91	100	98¼	98½	0	−0¼	5.84
EIB 5¾ 93	100	97½	97¾	−1½	−2½	6.08
Ex.-Im Bk. Jap. 5¾ 91	100	97½	97¾	0	−0¼	6.01
Ind. Fd. Finland 6¼ 91	40	100	100¼	0	−0¼	6.23
Int.-Am. Dv. Bk. 6⅛ 93	100	100	100¼	−0¼	−0¼	6.10
Japan Dev. Bank 5½ 93	100	98¼	98½	+0½	−0¼	5.72
Kansai Elec. Pwr. 6 91	100	102	102¼	+0½	+0¼	5.65
Kawasaki Steel 6⅛ 91	100	100¼	100¾	0	−0½	6.02
Montreal Urban 5¾ 93	200	99¼	99½	0	−0½	5.83
Mount Isa Fin. 6 93	100	100½	100¾	−0½	−0½	5.91
Nisshin Steel 6⅜ 91	100	99½	99¾	0	−0½	6.31
Norsk Hydro 5⅝ 98	100	96½	96¾	−0¼	−0¼	5.85
Osterr. Draukraft 6 93	100	101⅞	102¼	−0¼	−0½	5.73
Osterr. Post 6⅛ 91	100	103	103¼	+0¼	+0¼	5.62
Quebec Hydro 5½ 93	100	100½	100¾	+0¼	−0½	5.41
Sekisui House 6 93	100	101	101¼	+0½	−0¼	5.84
Sumitomo M. Ind. 6 91	100	100¼	100½	0	0	5.93
Tohoku El. Power 6 93	100	99	99¼	0	−1	6.12
Trizec Corpn. 6⅝ 91	100	103	103¼	+0½	+0¼	5.73
World Bank 5⅝ 93	100	97	97¼	−0½	−1	6.02
Average price changes... On day 0 on week −0⅞						

YEN STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	week	Yield
Australia 8¼ 92	15	103¾	104¼	−0½	0	7.99
EIB 8¼ 92	15	101½	102¼	+0⅞	0	7.94
Japan Airlines 7⅞ 87	3	†101½	102	−0⅜	−0½	7.27
New Zealand 7⅝ 89	15	101¼	101⅞	+0⅛	−0¼	7.31
World Bank 8⅞ 92	20	102¾	103¼	−0½	−0½	7.89
Average price changes... On day 0 on week −0¼						

OTHER STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	week	Yield
British Col. 11¼ 93 C$	25	†92½	92⅞	−0⅛	+2⅛	13.11
Cn. Pc. Scs. 11⅞ 90 C$	75	†97¼	97¾	−0½	−0⅞	12.44
Chrb. France 11⅞ 95 C$	40	†93⅞	93¾	+0¼	−0¼	12.96
Intprv. Pipe 12¼ 93 C$	50	†93¾	94¼	0	−1⅞	13.38
Montreal 12¾ 91 C$	60	†98¾	99¼	+0¼	−0¼	12.43
Mont. Trans. 12½ 90 C$	20	†97½	98½	+0¼	0	12.93
Pancanadian 12½ 93 C$	50	†95¾	95¾	−0¼	−1¼	13.32
Credit Nat. 12¼ 93 ECU	50	102½	103¼	0	+0¼	11.71
Forsmarks 11½ 98 ECU	40	102	102½	0	+0¼	11.15
Consol. Foods 7¾ 88 Fl	100	95¼	95¾	−0¼	−0⅛	8.48
Elect. Supply 8⅜ 88 Fl	75	95⅞	96⅜	0	−0¼	9.78
Nederland Gas 7½ 88 Fl	100	98	98½	0	0	7.95
Philips Lamps 7¾ 88 Fl	100	97½	97¾	−0¼	−0⅛	7.94
Sw. Ex. Cred. 7¾ 88 Fl	100	95¼	95¾	0	0	8.99
World Bank 7 88 Fl	150	93¾	94¼	−0¼	−0¼	8.66
OKB 14 86 FFr	400	100	101	−0⅛	−0¼	13.64
Solvay et C. 14½ 86 FFr	200	101¼	102¼	−0¼	0	13.79
BFCE 11½ 88 £	50	96½	97¼	+0¼	+0½	12.37
British Oxyg. 11½ 91 £	50	98¾	99¼	0	+0¼	11.96
CEPME 11½ 95 £	30	98¼	99¼	−0¼	−0⅞	11.46
CNT 12½ 89 £	20	100	101	+0⅛	+0¼	12.35
EEC 11⅞ 91 £	50	99¼	100	+0¼	+0¼	11.92
Fin. for Ind. 10½ 90 £	20	95¼	96½	−0⅛	−0¼	11.33
Fin. for Ind. 12¼ 88 £	30	102⅞	103½	+0¼	0	11.42
F. Mat. Oranji. 12⅝ 92 £	30	100¾	101¼	+0¼	−1⅛	12.49
Gen. Elec. Co. 12¼ 89 £	50	102¼	104	+0¼	0	11.59
Mort. Bk. Fin. 11¾ 89 £	15	96⅞	97½	−0¼	−0¼	12.43
Norsk Hydro 12 90 £	30	99¾	100¼	+0¼	+0¼	11.90
Quebec 14½ 89 £	30	106½	107¼	+0¼	+1⅞	12.70
SNCF 11½ 89 £	30	95⅞	96¾	+0⅛	0	12.37
Sw. Ex. Cred. 11½ 88 £	30	95⅞	96¾	+0¼	0	12.30
Tenneco Int. 14¼ 87 £	30	106⅞	107⅞	+0½	+0¼	12.29
World Bank 11½ 91 £	75	97⅞	98¾	+0⅛	−0⅞	11.73
Euratom 11 93 LuxFr	500	105¼	106¼	0	0	10.03
Europarat 10⅝ 93 LuxFr	600	102¾	103¾	0	0	10.21

FLOATING RATE NOTES	Spread	Bid	Offer	C.dte	C.cpn	C.yld
BFCE 5¼ 87	0¼	99¼	99½	27/1	10⅞	10.94
BFCE 5¼ 88	0¼	99	99¼	20/1	10.18	10.27
Caisse Nat. Tele. 5¼ 90	0¼	99⅞	99⅞	21/10	9.56	9.66
CCF 5¼ 95	0¼	98⅞	99¼	7/10	10.19	10.29
CCF 5¼ 98	0¼	99¼	99½	24/9	9.94	9.86
CEPME 5¼ 88 WW	0¼	99¼	99¾	3/9	10	10.05
CEPME 5¼ 92	0¼	99¼	99½	10/12	10½	10.57
Chemical NY 5¼ 94	‡0¼	100¼	100½	23/9	10.82	10.78
CNCA 5¼ 95 XW	0¼	98¾	99	7/12	10	10.11
CNT 5¼ 91	0¼	98¼	98¾	6/11	9¼	9.39
Credit Agricole 5¼ 97	0¼	99¼	99¾	24/9	10	10.08
Credit Lyonnais 5¼ 94	0¼	98¾	99	5/1	10.31	10.43
Credit Lyonnais 5¼ 97	0¼	98⅞	99¼	1/10	10.06	10.16
Credit Nat. 5¼ 94	0¼	98¾	99¼	9/9	9¼	9.34
EDF 5¼ 95 XW	0¼	99¼	99¾	10/8	10	10.08
EEC 5 90	0¼	99¼	99½	5/7	10.19	10.25
Kansallis Osaka 5½ 92	0¼	99¾	100	6/11	9¼	9.14
Long Term Credit 5¼ 92	0¼	99¼	99⅞	27/11	9¾	9.77
J. P. Morgan 5¼ 97	§0¼	100¼	100½	12/8	9	8.97
New Zealand 5¼ 87	0¼	99¾	100¼	7/10	10.06	10.06
NZ Steel Dev. 5¼ 92	0¼	99⅞	100¼	22/12	10¼	10.24
Nippon Credit 5¼ 90	0¼	100	100¼	10/8	9⅞	9.86
Societe Gen. 5¼ 90 XW	0¼	98⅞	98¾	9/11	9¼	9.25
Societe Generale 5¼ 95	0¼	98⅞	99¼	7/9	9⅞	9.62
Sweden 5¼ 89	0¼	99¾	99⅞	26/8	9¾	9.85
Sweden 5¼ 93	0¼	99¾	99⅞	3/2	11.19	11.22
Average price changes... On day 0 on week 0						

CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Cnv. date	Cnv. price	Bid	Offer	Chg. day	Prem
Bridgestone Tire 5½ 96	3/82	470	106	107½	−0¼	7.96
Canon 7 97	7/82	748.2	209¾	210¾	+1¾	11.31
Hitachi Cable 5¾ 96	2/82	616	118¾	120¼	+1⅝	5.57
Honda Motor 5¼ 98	6/83	884	97¾	98⅝	0	4.79
Honda Motor 5¾ 97	3/82	759.6	110¼	111¾	+0½	1.27
Kawasaki 5½ 96	9/81	225	75¾	77¾	−0⅞	16.46
Kumagai Gumi 6½ 97	10/82	400	111½	112¼	0	0.27
Kyowa Hakko 5½ 97	2/83	762	108½	110	0	16.10
Minebea Co. 5½ 98	5/83	667	118¼	119¼	+2	0.02
Mitsubishi Elec. 5¾ 98	6/83	396	100¾	101¾	0	5.70
Nippon Electric 5½ 97	2/82	765.9	174¼	176¼	+3⅞	2.72
Nippon Oil Co 5½ 98	4/83	964	94¾	95¾	−0⅞	8.24
Nissan Motor 5¼ 98	4/83	770	87⅞	88¼	−0⅛	−1.39
Olympus Optic. 6¼ 97	12/82	1331	95¾	97¼	+0¼	16.46
Orient Finance 5¾ 97	3/82	927.2	91⅞	93⅞	−1⅛	9.72
Orient Leasing 5¼ 98	6/83	2680	88⅞	89⅞	0	1.74
Secom 5 98	11/83	2920	115¼	117	+1⅞	−0.29
Sumitomo Elec. 5½ 97	3/12	577.3	105¼	106¼	+0¼	4.50
Sumitomo Met. 5¼ 96	10/81	296.1	66	67⅛	−1⅛	38.54
Yamaichi Sec. Co 5 98	8/83	472	90¾	91¾	+0¼	−1.77
NEC Cpn. 3½ 93 SwFr	8/83	978	147⅛	149⅛	+0½	−1.09
Sanyo Elec. 3½ 93 SwFr	5/83	501	107	109	−0⅞	16.03
Konishiroku 6½ 88 DM	6/82	616	110¼	111¼	−0⅛	1.80
Mitsubishi H. 6 89 DM	2/82	263	102⅞	103⅞	+0¼	15.39
Sum. Realty 6½ 92 DM	2/83	365	119¼	120¼	+1⅞	−2.14

EUROBOND TURNOVER (nominal value in $m)	Cedel	Euro-clear
U.S. $ bonds		
Last week	7,108.9	10,577.7
Previous week	7,308.2	14,029.3
Other bonds		
Last week	1,009.0	710.8
Previous week	993.0	417.8

* No information available—previous day's price.

† Only one market maker supplied a price.

STRAIGHT BONDS: The yield is the yield to redemption of the mid-price; the amount issued is in millions of currency units except for Yen bonds where it is in billions. Change on week=Change over price a week earlier.

FLOATING RATE NOTES: Denominated in dollars unless otherwise indicated. Coupon shown is minimum. C.dte=Date next coupon becomes effective. Spread=Margin above six-month offered rate (‡ three-month; § above mean rate) for U.S. dollars. C.cpn=The current coupon. C.yld=The current yield.

CONVERTIBLE BONDS: Denominated in dollars unless otherwise indicated. Chg.day=Change on day. Cnv. date=First date for conversion into shares. Cnv.price=Nominal amount of bond per share expressed in currency of share at conversion rate fixed at issue. Prem=Percentage premium of the current effective price of acquiring shares via the bond over the most recent price of the shares.

The list shows the 200 latest international bonds for which an adequate secondary market exists. The prices over the past week were supplied by: Kredietbank NV; Credit Commercial de France; Credit Lyonnais; Commerzbank AG; Deutsche Bank AG; Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale; Banque Generale du Luxembourg SA; Banque Internationale Luxembourg; Kredietbank Luxembourg; Algemene Bank Nederland NV; Pierson, Heldring and Pierson; Credit Suisse/Swiss Credit Bank; Union Bank of Switzerland; Akroyd and Smithers; Bank of Tokyo International; Chase Manhattan; Citicorp International Bank; Credit Commercial de France (Securities) London; Daiwa Europe NV; EBC; First Chicago; Goldman Sachs International Corporation; Hambros Bank; IBJ International; Kidder Peabody International; Merrill Lynch; Morgan Stanley International; Nomura International; Orion Royal Bank; Robert Fleming and Co.; Samuel Montagu and Co.; Scandinavian Bank; Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull; Sumitomo Finance International; S. G. Warburg and Co.; Wood Gundy.

Closing prices on August 12

Further progress expected by Amersham International

IN HIS annual statement to shareholders of Amersham International, Sir John Hill, the chairman, says the group is in a healthy state and ready for further progress.

There is a good base for another successful year, he says, while increased product development expenditure will support subsequent growth. "With these points in mind we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the year already in progress".

The year ended March 31 1983 was one of significant achievement with sales advancing from £62.56m to £78.1m and profits from £8.54m to £11.73m. All three of the business sectors—medical, research and industrial products—made significant gains, thereby maintaining the trend of the previous year.

Geographically the story was similar, with sales growth in all the main regions and non-UK sales remaining at over 80 per cent of turnover.

Both sales and profits benefited from the general weakening of the pound against the dollar and other important trading currencies. This, and the attention paid to costs and productivity, puts the group in a strong position for the current year.

Emoluments of the chairman for the year came to £9,270 (£3,210) and the highest paid director received £48,755 (£30,360).

Meeting, St. Ermin's Hotel, Caxton Street, SW. October 5 at noon.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether the dividends are interims or finals and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY

Interims: Albright and Wilson, Ayrshire Metal Products, Asea AB, British Dredging, International Investment Trust of Jersey, Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, Transport Development.

Finals: Howard Shuttering, Impala Platinum, Sungei Besi Mines Malaysia, Vibroplant.

FUTURE DATES

Interim—	
BBA	Aug 25
Cadbury Schweppes	Sept 1
Highcroft Investment Trust	Sept 15
Kode International	Sept 6
Lec Refrigeration	Aug 25
Miss World	Aug 26
Noble and Lund	Sept 1
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation	Sept 7
Squirrel Horn	Aug 18
Supra	Aug 22
United Biscuits	Sept 15
Finals—	
Consolidated Gold Fields	Sept 13
Fletcher Challenge	Sept 14
McKay Securities	Aug 18
Sungei Besi Mines Malaysia	Aug 15

Hallite sees stagnant markets

IN THE industries served by Hallite, maker of synthetic rubber and plastic precision seals, there is, at yet, no clear evidence of an upturn in market requirements, and new orders need to be pursued aggresively to be won, says Mr J. Gordon, the chairman, in his annual statement.

He says the group continues to suffer from the worlwide recession in the mechanical engineering and energy related industries, but is well placed to benefit from any improvement in demand.

Opportunities to expand the group's business continue to be researched. On August 4, it purchased the entire share capital of Poppe Rubber Company, and the consideration of £750,000 was satisfied by the issue of 337,844 new ordinary shares in Hallite. These were placed with institutional investors.

In the year to December 31 1982, Poppe incurred pre-tax losses of £73,000, but Mr Gordon says significant financial benefits are expected to accrue from common facilities and the close geographical proximity of Poppe and Hallite Seals.

In his review of the group's operations, he says that UK-based companies all showed improved results in the year to April 30 1983. The contraction of demand in the French market greatly affected the results of Hallite (France) and, with action to reduce overhead costs lagging behind the reduction in the volume of business, trading losses resulted. A major reorganisation of this company has taken place.

In Germany, Dichtelemente Hallite GmbH again achieved good results despite very competitive market conditions. Tipak Hallite AB, a Swedish company, joined the group in July 1982 and incurred a small loss. With more optimism showing in the Swedish market, however, this company is expected to make a positive contribution to group results.

Group balance sheet shows fixed assets up from £2.82m to £3.55m, and net current assets at £3.15m (£3.17m). Shareholder's funds improved from £5.51m to £5.9m.

During the year, the average number of people employed in the group rose from 492 to 601.

Meeting: Kempton Manor, Sunbury-on-Thames, September 26 at noon.

Signs of recovery for Hollas in current year

There are distinct signs of recovery in Hollas Group's various yarn operations and the garment distribution division continues to benefit from its reputation as the leading company in its field Mr A R. Lawson, chairman, reports in his annual statement.

The garment division's potential is great, he says, and while the management will continue to examine properly any other oportunities it will concentrate on the growth opportunities in this and the yarn divisions.

At the year end shareholders funds had fallen from £9.85m to £8.66m and fixed assets were valued lower at £2.17m (£2.65m). Net current assets came to £3.65m (£5.19m). During the year there was an increase in net liquid funds of £59,000 (£903,000) and a decrease in working capital of £271,000 (increase £194,000).

Meeting: Manchester, September 2, 11.00 am.

Full listing for Bespak

Bespak, a manufacturer of specialised aerosol valves, has joined the handful of companies to graduate from the Unlisted Securities Market to a full Stock Exchange listing.

The company had originally intended to come to the stock market 10 years ago, before the USM was created. But it was deterred by the then prevailing market conditions.

Bespak made its USM debut only last November, when its shares were placed by Hambros Bank at 75p each.

Renewed attack on Waddingtons forecast

British Printing and Communication Corporation, which has launched a £16.4m bid for games and packaging group John Waddington, has renewed its attack on Waddington's profits forecast.

Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank which is advising BPCC, sent a letter to Waddington shareholders containing the text of an article in Packaging Review on which it had partly based its claim that the Waddington forecast was "fragile."

Ansbacher said that it did not accept that none of the statements made by Mr Mike Wilson, a Waddington executive, applied to the company. Waddington has said Mr Wilson's comments about low prices referred to the cartons industry as a whole and not the company.

Ansbacher said that Waddington was likely to have been affected by the same problems as the industry as a whole, and that if it had performed much better than the overall trend then this point would have been made in the article.

Waddington has forecast it will make a pre-tax profit of £3m in the year ending March 31 1984.

International Signal offer oversubscribed

The International Signal and Control offer for sale by tender of 34.6m shares at a minimum price of 125p each, has been oversubscribed. Details of the exact level of oversubscription, striking price, and basis of allocation, will be announced on Monday. The offer was made chiefly to finance the acquisition of Marquandt, a U.S.-based missile propulsion company.

ISC came to the London stock market last October. Despite being a U.S. defence electronics business, it spurned a U.S. listing because it was unwilling to reveal the details about its customers that would have been required by the New York Securities and Exchange Commission.

The original offer, at an equivalent price of 77½p per share, was one of the most oversubscribed offers of recent years. Would-be investors' applications totalled £1.125bn, as the issue was 33 times oversubscribed.

Robert Fleming, the underwriters to both issues said "the bank is still counting applications but this issue has not been massively oversubscribed, and the multiple will not be as great as last time."

RUBEROID

Negotiations have been completed for the transfer of ownership of Coverwell Roofing from M. P. Harris (Holdings) to Ruberoid Contracts, a subsidiary of Ruberoid. The transfer is subject to contract and is presently in the hands of the respective legal advisers.

This acquisition will enable Ruberoid to expand its operations in the South East and to diversify into roof tiling. It is Ruberoid's intention to increase the Coverwell product range by the inclusion of decking, cladding and other systems.

BREMAR TRUST

Bremar Trust has been informed by Bremar Holdings that it is now no longer interested in any of the share capital of BT.

SHARE STAKES

Security Centres Holdings—T. Forrest has purchased 5,000 ordinary shares at 303p.

Cope Allman International—By a notice dated August 8 1983 Hawley Group now holds 4.95m ordinary shares (12.52 per cent).

Chapman Industries — BPM Holdings acquired 425,000 ordinary on August 3. R. P. P. Iliffe, chairman of BPM is also a director of Chapman.

Marler Estates—Skandia Life Assurance has acquired 250,000 ordinary (6.391 per cent).

St Andrew Trust—Following the purchase of 571,734 ordinary in St Andrew on August 8, Ecclesiastical Insurance Office is interested in 2,289,228 ordinary (19.98 per cent).

Allnatt London set to top £10m

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of enquiries to Allnatt London Properties over the last few weeks, but since there is always a delay between the date of agreement and the time it becomes income producing the present activity will not have much effect on the current year, Mr Leslie Smith, chairman, says in his annual statement.

As already known taxable profits for the year to March 31 1983 advanced from £8.06m to £9.47m on higher rents receivable of £10.89m compared with £9.82m.

With retained profits of £3.25m profit and loss account reserves grew to £17.03m, while a dividend of 6.2p net (5.2p) including an interim of 1p (same) was paid.

Mr Smith says that the current year's pre-tax profits will exceed £10m, rents receivable will be well over £11.5m and profit and loss account reserves will exceed £20m.

At the year end shareholders' funds amounted to £114.1m (£24.08m including a revaluation reserve of £86.76m (nil), while first mortgage debenture stocks came to £15.94m (£16.1m). Fixed assets were valued at £135.68m (£47.49m) and there were net current liabilities of £3.19m (£4.9m).

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue price	Amount paid up	Latest Renunc. date	1983 High	1983 Low	Stock	Closing price	+ or −	Net Div.	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P.E. Ratio
§115	F.P.	14/9	410	130	‡Aaronite Group	135	−2	bd2.5	2.2	2.7	24.6
§50	F.P.	4/8	127	100	‡Biomechanics I't18p	100	......	—	—	—	—
¶130	F.P.	28/7	130	115	‡CPU Computers 5p	120	......	bg1.4	2.9	1.7	38.0
¶200	F.P.	26/8	250	200	DPCE Hldgs 5p	245	......	b2.0	3.6	1.2	32.1
¶¶	F.P.	—	325	160	Dollonds Photo 12½p	320	+5	—	—	—	—
—	F.P.	—	£25⅛	£22⅞	Florida Power & Light	£25¾	+⅛	Q$6.80	—	9.6	—
§46	F.P.	5/8	57	52	‡GableHouseProp.5p	55	−1	b2.3	2.0	6.0	11.9
§100	F.P.	5/8	118	110	‡Gee (C.) 10p	116	−1	u2.1	2.5	2.6	22.0
¶190	F.P.	12/8	204	108	Gent (S.R.) 10p	192	+2	b3.0	3.1	2.2	15.8
§17½	F.P.	12/8	24	20	‡GilbertH'useInvs10p	20	......	—	—	—	—
375	F.P.	5/8	372	350	Henderson Admin.	347	−5	u6.0	2.9	2.5	18.7
§190	F.P.	15/8	190	187	‡Invent Energy	190	......	—	—	—	—
§115	F.P.	5/8	123	106	‡KLP Group 5p	116	......	g1.6	2.7	2.0	26.6
98	F.P.	5/8	115	105	Maunders (J.) 20p	105	......	3.5	2.8	4.8	7.6
‖	F.P.	5/9	31	25	‡Metal Sciences 2½p	24	+1	—	—	—	—
—	F.P.	—	£10⅝	950	Pacific Gas & Elect.	£10¼	......	Q$3.20	—	8.1	—
95	F.P.	12/8	94	88	Park Food 10p	90	......	u3.0	2.0	4.8	15.5
§210	F.P.	9/9	214	210	Peel Hldgs	206	−2	bd7.35	1.2	6.0	21.6
§111	F.P.	26/8	252	165	‡P'lyt'chnicM'rine5p	235	−7	ud2.0	1.9	1.2	—
§25	F.P.	9/9	27	26	‡Promotions H'se 5p	27	......	b0.7	1.0	3.7	19.3
§205	F.P.	4/8	220	195	‡Rayford Supreme	222	......	b4.9	7.0	3.2	11.4
85	F.P.	16/9	103	97	‡SCUSA Inc. $0.01	99	−2	b0.95c	4.4	1.0	22.5
§Kr.300	F.P.	—	£28⅛	£26½	Sonesson (W.) Kr.50	£28	......	Q11%	2.9	1.7	20.3
§85	F.P.	19/8	93	89	‡Sthn. Bus. Leas.10p	89	−1	bg1.75	3.2	2.8	12.3
10	F.P.	24/6	18½	14	‡Sunleigh Elect. 10p	17¼	+½	g0.35	1.8	2.9	26.1
100	F.P.	2/9	85	83	‡Tech. for Bus. 10p	83	......	b4.2	6.0	7.2	11.5
‖	F.P.	—	23	20	Texas (L.) Petrol.	21	......	—	—	—	—
§83	F.P.	15/9	90	85	‡Thermal Scientific	90	+2	b2.3	2.8	3.7	14.1
¶140	F.P.	15/7	185	140	‡Tunstall Telecom5p	168	−7	bg1.12	3.7	1.0	40.8
¶¶	F.P.	23/9	18	16	Yorks&Lancs Inv. W's	18	......	—	—	—	—

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue price £	Amount paid up	Latest Renunc. date	1983 High	1983 Low	Stock	Closing price £	+ or −
§92.96	£25	29/11	35½	22	Allied Lyons 11¾% Deb 2009	23	+¾
‖	F.P.	18/7	100½	93	Allied Plant 10% Cnv Uns Ln 85/86	93	......
¶¶	F.P.	—	129	111	Atlantic Met'n (UK) 12% UL 91/97	108	+3
—	£20	28/10	23¾	18	Bristol 11½% Red. 2008	18¼	+⅛
—	£25	26/8	26½	21¾	Brixton Est 11¼% Deb 2018	22¼	+¼
‖96.95	£25	21/10	25	22½	C.C.C. Economic 12¼% Gtd. Ln. 2015	23	......
99.75	F.P.	26/8	103½	101½	Ecclesiastical 13% Deb 2018	102½	......
‖	Nil	22/8	8pm	4pm	Evode 8% Cnv Uns Ln 2003/08	4pm	......
¶¶	F.P.	15/7	127p	122p	Extel 10½% Cum Pref	124p	−1
100p	F.P.	9/9	102p	101p	‡FKI 7% Red Cnv Pref	102p	......
‖	F.P.	12/8	108	102	Hewden Stuart 10% Cnv Uns Ln '03/08	108	+1
¶100p	25p	9/12	29½p	25p	LASMO 9⅝% Cum Red Pref	29¾p	......
99.526	£30	21/9	30¼	28½	Malaysia 12¼% Ln 1988 Reg	28¾	+¼
—	—	—	100	99½	Nationwide B. S. 10⅛% Bds 9/7/84	99½	......
—	—	—	100⅛	99¾	Do 10⅛% Bds 30/7/84	99⅞	......
93.89	£30	15/9	33	27¼	New Zealand 11¼% 2008	27½	+¼
§100	F.P.	—	98	92	Oldham 11¼% Red 2010	92½xd	+½
§98.575	£25	31/8	25	21	Trafford Park Est. 11¾% 2007/11	21	......
97.941	£25	14/10	28½	23¼	Transport Dev 12½% Uns Ln 2008	24¾	+1
§99.898	£25	20/9	29¾	24½	Watn'yM nn&Trum'n12⅛% Red.Deb.2008	25½	+¼
103.3	—	—	102p	99½p	Weir 10% Red Cum Pref	100½p	−½
99.124	£25	25/10	24¾	23¾	Westland 12⅝% Deb 2008	24¾	+½
¶¶	F.P.	23/9	102½	100	Yorks & Lancs Inv 13½% Deb 2003	102	+¼

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue price	Amount paid up	Latest Renunc. date ●	Latest Renunc. date ■	1983 High	1983 Low	Stock	Closing price	+ or −
33	Nil	—	9/9	38	35	Assoc. British Eng'g 12½p	35	......
310	F.P.	—	2/9	377	325	Beecham	347	−3
63	F.P.	1/8	16/9	115	84	Brengreen 10p	108	+1
25	Nil	—	14/9	30½	29	Crowther (J.)	29	......
175	Nil	—	9/9	22pm	10pm	Dixons Grp 10p	13pm	+3
200	F.P.	—	25/8	243½	240	Emess Lighting	240	......
100	F.P.	29/7	19/8	136	121	Erskine House	120	......
145	Nil	17/8	30/9	25pm	15pm	Fidelity Radio 10p	20pm	......
10	Nil	—	9/9	3pm	1½pm	First Charlotte Assets Tst 5p	1¼pm	−1¼
34	Nil	—	16/9	4pm	3pm	‡First Talisman Inv. 20p	3pm	−1
78	F.P.	8/8	16/9	123¼	118	Fleet Holdings 20p	123¼	......
12	Nil	—	9/9	25	18	Greencoat Props 5p	18½	−½
120	Nil	—	6/9	131	123	H.A.T. Group 10p	128	......
Ir£1.18	F.P.	27/7	26/8	118	112	Independent News	112	......
175	Nil	—	29/9	190	188	‡Invent Energy	190	......
57½	F.P.	—	25/8	112½	89½	London & Northern	98	−1
150	F.P.	—	19/8	410	335	‡Merrydown Wine	380	......
100	F.P.	—	12/8	125	122	Pyke (Holdings) 10p	122	......
175	Nil	—	30/9	65½pm	63pm	Unitech 10p	63pm	−4
100	Nil	—	16/9	125pm	102pm	United Parcels 10p	125pm	......

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. *b* Figures based on prospectus estimates. *d* Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. *g* Assumed dividend and yield. *u* Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983-84. Q Gross. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividend or ranking only for restricted dividends. ◆ Figures or report awaited. § Placing price. *p* Pence unless otherwise indicated. ¶ Issued by tender. ‖ Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights." ** Issued by way of capitalisation. §§ Reintroduced. ¶¶ Issued in connection with reorganisation merger or take-over. ‖‖ Introduction. □ Issued to former preference holders. ■ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). ● Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. ★ With warrants. ‡ Effective issue price after scrip. † Formerly dealt in under special rule.

PENDING DIVIDENDS

Dates when some of the more important company dividend statements may be expected in the next few weeks are given in the following table. The dates shown are those of last year's announcements except where the forthcoming board meetings (indicated thus*) have been officially notified. Dividends to be declared will not necessarily be at the amounts in the column headed "Announcement last year."

	Date	Announcement last year		Date	Announcement last year
*Associated Dairies	Aug 31	Final 1.75	Delta	Sept 8	Interim 1.82
Automotive Products	Aug 13	Interim 0.5	Dunlop	Sept 23	Interim 2.0
*BAT Inds	Sept 21	Interim 2.5	Eagle Star	Sept 15	Interim 7.0
BICC	Sept 8	Interim 3.5	European Ferries	Sept 10	Interim 1.0
BTR	Sept 13	Interim 4.75	Expamet Int	Sept 15	Interim 2.0
Babcock Intl	Sept 1	Interim 3.4	Fisons	Sept 23	Interim 3.0
*Bank of Scotland	Sept 20	Interim 10.5	General Mining	Sept 2	Interim 55c
Barratt Devs	Sept 21	Final 8.85	Gold Fields SA	Aug 17	Final 320c
*Bass	Sept 21	Interim 4.0	*GRE	Aug 31	Interim 7.0
Barrow Hepburn	Sept 20	Interim 0.8	Habitat Mothercare	Sept 8	Final 2.8
Bath and Portland	Aug 5	Interim 2.5	Hall Eng	Sept 23	Interim 3.41
Blackwood Hodge	Sept 9	Interim 0.5	Hepworth Ceramic	Sept 9	Interim 2.25
Blue Circle	Aug 25	Interim 8.0	*HK Shanghai Bank	Aug 22	Int HK$0.18
[illegible]	Sept 16	Interim 1.5	*Ladbroke	Aug 30	Interim 3.7
Bowater	Sept 15	Interim 4.25	Laird Group	Sept 4	Interim 2.1
British Aerospace	Sept 21	Interim 3.25	Laporte	Sept 23	Interim 3.5
British Electric Traction	Sept 2	Final 8.137	Legal and General	Sept 15	Interim 4.5
*British Petroleum	Sept 1	Interim 6.25	London Merchant Securities	Sept 14	Final 0.87
*Britoil	Aug 24	Interim due	*LASMO	Aug 23	Interim 4.5
Brixton Ests	Sept 21	Interim 1.7	Marchwiel	Sept 1	Interim 2.7
Bunzl	Sept 9	Interim 4.5	Menzies (J.)	Sept 23	Interim 1.6
Burmah Oil	Sept 15	Interim 3.5	Mills Allen Intl	Sept 22	Final 16.0
*Cadbury Schweppes	Sept 1	Interim 1.4	Morgan Crucible	Sept 2	Interim 3.5
*Cons Gold Fields	Sept 13	Final 16.0	NEI	Sept 21	Interim 1.5
Costain	Sept 7	Interim 5.0	Pearson (S.)	Sept 8	Interim 3.75
Coats Intl	Sept 21	Interim 2.0	*P&O	Sept 7	Interim 4.0
DRG	Sept 22	Interim 3.0	*Philips Lamps	Aug 18	Interim Fl0.60
Dalgety	Sept 20	Final 11.0	Phoenix Assurance	Sept 1	Interim 7.3
*De Beers	Aug 23	Interim 12½c			

Closing prices August 12

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Div.	Yld.	P/E	Sls 100s	High	Low	Close Quote	Ch'ge Prev Close
17¾	5¼	AAR	.44	3.1	20	43	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	
37¾	27½	ACF	1.40	4.1	40	125	34⅝	33⅞	34⅜	+ ⅞
20	12¼	AMF	.50	3.1		x359	16¼	15⅞	16	+ ¼
38¼	13¾	AMR Cp			61	726	31⅝	30⅞	30⅞	− ⅝
18⅝	13½	AMR	pf2.18	12		61	18¼	18⅛	18¼	+ ⅛
39⅞	24⅝	AMR	pf2.13	6.4		52	34	33	33	− ⅝
12½	2½	APL				541	u13⅞	12½	13⅛	+ 1⅛
55	26	ARA	2.05	4.3	12	273	48¼	47¼	47¼	
79⅝	29	ASA	3a	4.4		321	68⅛	66¼	68⅝	+ ¼
33¼	9⅝	AVX	s .32	1.2	65	18	26¼	26½	26½	+ ¼
50¼	28½	AbtLab	1	2.1	18	473	47½	46¼	47	− ⅝
30⅛	25¼	AccoW	n .50	1.9	20	44	26	26	26	− ¼
27⅞	15⅝	AcmeC	.40	1.8		6	21⅞	21¼	21¼	+ ⅛
14⅞	6¼	AcmeE	.32b	2.8	37	3	11½	11½	11½	− ⅛
21½	5½	AdmDg	.04	.2	16	20	19⅝	19⅝	19⅝	− ⅛
17⅞	12½	AdaEx	1.73e	9.7		76	17¾	16⅞	17¾	+ ⅞
19¼	6⅝	AdmMl	.24	1.4	9	83	17¾	17¼	17¾	+ ⅝
28	12⅞	Advest	s .16	.6	9	189	24⅞	23	24⅞	+ 1⅞
69¾	13	AMD	s		62	692	57⅞	56⅞	56¾	+ ¼
28¼	26¾	AMD	wi			19	28¼	28½	28¼	+ 1⅛
44⅝	32⅞	AetnLf	2.64	7.3	7	1351	36½	35¼	36⅛	+ ⅝
65	52¼	AetL	pf4.94e	8.6		210	57¾	56½	57¼	+ ½
40½	8¼	Ahmns	.60	2.1	73	2164	29½	28⅝	29¼	+ 1⅛
7⅞	2⅞	Aileen				118	6¾	6⅞	6¾	
60⅞	29⅝	AirPrd	1	2.3	12	1111	44⅛	43½	44	+ ½
27¼	10	AirbFrt	.60	3.0	20	16	20½	20	20¼	+ ⅛
3⅛	2	AlMoa	n		95	1796	3	2⅞	2⅞	− ⅛
33½	25¾	AlaP	pfA3.92	13		3	30⅝	30⅝	30⅝	
[illegible]										
25	17	Axa	1.15	5.2	58	36	22¼	22	22	− ¼
62½	20⅞	Aydin			19	144	53¼	51⅞	52	−1
B–B–B										
[illegible]										

Continued on Page 19

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Closing prices August 12

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	P/E	Sls 100s	High	Low	Close Quote	Ch'ge Prev Close
22⅞	5⅛	AAV	32	2.3	12	5	13⅞	13½	13⅝	+ ⅛
4⅜	2¼	AC Pn				2	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	
6⅛	1½	ATI				185	3⅞	3½	3⅝	+ ⅛
12¼	2	AcmePr			10	37	7⅞	7⅛	7⅛	− ⅛
19½	9⅛	AcmU	s .32	1.8	20	1	17⅞	17⅞	17⅞	
14½	1⅞	Acton	s		8	104	12⅞	12⅜	12⅝	+ ⅛
12	5⅝	Actons	.11	12.	42	49	8⅝	8⅛	8⅝	+ ⅛
6½	1	Acn	wt			83	3⅜	3¼	3¼	− ⅛
8	1⅞	AdmRs				22	5⅜	5⅛	5⅜	
30⅞	12	AdRusl	s .10	.4	17	41	25¼	25⅛	25¼	+ ¼
28⅞	11⅞	Adobe	.20	.8	17	29	25¼	25⅛	25¼	+ ¼
6⅛	2	AegisCp			13	79	3⅝	3⅜	3⅜	
24⅞	9½	Aerflx	s		21	46	19⅝	19⅛	19⅝	+ ⅜
7	2⅝	Aeronca			8	31	4⅝	4⅜	4⅝	+ ¼
32½	8⅜	AfilHsp	.36	1.3	12	4	27⅞	27½	27⅞	
45	16⅛	AlMPb	s .64	1.5	38	4	41⅞	41½	41⅞	− ⅛
17½	3⅞	AlfSci			13	48	15	14¾	15	
15½	4⅞	AirExp				522	8	7⅞	8	+ ⅛
6⅞	4⅞	Alamc	n		11	144	5⅜	5	5⅜	
23⅞	3⅞	AlbaW	.15e	.9	14	14	16⅞	16¼	16½	+ ½
12⅝	3	AlnTr	s			1	8⅜	8⅜	8⅜	+ ⅛
12⅝	7	AlmySt		1.8	56	2	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	+ ⅛
10½	5⅞	AlphaA				11	8⅝	8	8⅝	
20⅞	10⅛	AlphaI	s .05	.3	27	150	19⅝	19⅛	19⅝	+ ⅛
19	8⅞	Altamil	.43	2.1	11	20	18⅞	18⅛	18⅞	+ ⅛
1⅝	½	Altec				460	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
10⅝	4⅞	Altec	pf			1	10	10	10	
2⅞	1⅛	Altex				118	2⅛	1⅞	1⅞	− ⅛
11-16	1-16	Altex	wt			10	½	½	½	

Continued on Page 20

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Continued from Page 18

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	P/E	Sls 100s	High	Low	Close Quote	Ch'ge Prev Close
8⅞	3½	WeanU				63	7	6⅞	7	
25	6⅛	WebbD			47	315	19⅝	19⅛	19⅝	+ ⅜
40⅝	17⅛	WeisM	s .56	1.6	16	9	35¼	35⅛	35¼	+ ¼
39⅞	20	WellsF	1.92	5.5	6	177	34⅝	34	34⅝	+ ¼
50	45	WelF	pf1.44e	2.9		20	49½	49½	49½	
30	19⅝	WelFM	2.80	11.	10	75	25½	25⅛	25½	
19⅝	9½	Wendy	s .24	1.5	13	865	15⅞	15½	15½	− ½
29⅞	12⅛	WestCo	.40	1.5	15	136	26⅝	25⅞	26⅝	+ ⅞
41	32½	WPenP	pf4.50	12.		z150	38½	38	38½	+ ¼
53	23⅞	WstPtP	2	4.6	10	191	43⅞	43½	43⅞	+ ¼
7⅛	3⅝	WnAirL				473	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜	
3⅛	2⅛	WtAir	wt			579	2⅛	d2	2⅛	− ⅛
18⅛	9½	WAir	pf			23	15	14⅞	14⅞	− ⅛
10⅞	6⅛	WCNA	.12j		59	2792	10⅛	9⅞	10	+ ⅛
76⅛	50½	WPacI			14	6	73⅞	73½	73⅞	+ ½
54⅞	25⅛	WUnion	1.40	3.5	11	376	39⅞	39⅛	39½	
10⅛	8	WUn	dpf1.15	12.		11	9½	9½	9½	
54½	42⅞	WUTl	pf 6	12.		1	49⅞	49⅞	49⅞	− ⅛
22½	17⅛	WUTl	pf2.56	13.		3	20⅛	20⅛	20⅛	+ ⅛
53⅞	25⅞	WestgE	1.80	4.0	10	1338	44⅞	43⅞	44⅝	+ 1⅛
36	18½	Westvc	1.20	3.8	15	220	31½	31	31½	+ ½
41⅞	23⅞	Weyerh	1.30	3.9	64	2331	34⅛	33	33⅞	
52⅞	32⅞	Weyr	pf2.80	6.5		30	42⅞	41⅞	42⅞	+ ⅞
57⅛	38	Weyr	pr4.50	9.4		52	47⅞	47½	47⅞	+ ⅞
24⅞	12⅛	WhelPit				5	21⅛	21	21⅛	+ ½
57	29⅞	Whirlpl	1.80	3.9	11	275	46½	45⅝	45⅝	
45⅞	23⅞	WhitC	1.50	4.1	15	283	37	36	36⅞	+ ⅛
65⅞	18	Whitehl			18	40	50	49½	49⅞	+ ⅛
34⅛	18	Whittak	1.60	5.8	12	177	27⅞	27½	27⅞	− ½
11⅛	3⅛	Wiebldt			49	52	9	8⅞	9	+ ⅛
28⅞	12⅞	Willam	1.20	4.2	43	2373	u28⅞	28	28⅞	+ ⅞
18	9⅛	WilmEl	.60	4.9	5	126	12¼	11⅞	12⅛	+ ⅛
11⅞	6	WilshrO	.08r	1.1	7	238	7⅛	7	7⅛	+ ¼
62⅞	36	WinDx	2.58	4.9	12	43	53	52½	53	+ ½
22⅞	5⅛	Winnbg	.10e	.5	35	171	19	18⅞	19	+ ⅛
12⅞	3⅛	WinterJ			37	1	10⅛	10⅛	10⅛	− ⅛
25⅛	20	WiscEP	2.10	8.9	7	392	23⅞	23⅝	23⅝	− ⅛

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Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 per cent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a—dividend also extra(s). b—annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c—liquidating dividend. cld—called. d—new yearly low. e—dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. g—dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i—dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j—dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k—dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. n—new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd—next day delivery. P/E—price-earnings ratio. r—dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s—stock split. Dividends begins with date of split. sls—sales. t—dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u—new yearly high. v—trading halted. vi—in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganised under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd—when distributed. wi—when issued. ww—with warrants. x—ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis—ex-distribution. xw—without warrants. y—ex-dividend and sales in full. yld—yield. z—sales in full.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Indices

NEW YORK

DOW JONES

	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug. 9	Aug. 8	Aug 5	1983 High	1983 Low	Since C'mpil'tn High	Since C'mpil'tn Low
♦ Industr'ls	1182.85	1174.59	1175.96	1168.27	1165.06	1183.29	1248.30 (16/6)	1027.04 (3/1)	1248.30 (16/6/83)	41.22 (2/7/32)
H'me Bnds	70.09	69.90	69.86	69.85	69.96	70.12	77.84 (6/5)	69.85 (9/8)	—	—
Transport..	538.62	539.62	537.07	531.01	532.50	542.45	590.63 (27/6)	434.24 (3/1)	590.65 (27/6/83)	12.32 (8/7/32)
Utilities....	127.94	127.84	127.55	127.39	127.60	129.98	132.99 (26/7)	118.51 (3/1)	163.32 (20/4/69)	10.5 (28/4/42)
TradingVol 000 †	71,840	70,630	82,908	81,420	71,460	67,830	—	—	—	—

♦ Day's high 1189.63 (1185.87) low 1169.82 (1168.55)

	Aug. 5	July 29	July 22	Year ago (Approx)
Indust'l div. yield %	4.66	4.62	4.50	7.13

STANDARD AND POORS

	Aug. 12	Aug. 11	Aug. 10	Aug. 9	Aug. 8	Aug. 5	1983 High	1983 Low	Since Cmpil'n High	Since Cmpil'n Low
Indust'ls. ..	182.76	182.06	182.16	180.54	179.42	182.40	193.22 (22/6)	154.95 (5/1)	193.22 (22/6/83)	3.52 (30/6/32)
Comp's'te	162.16	161.56	161.54	160.13	159.18	161.74	170.99 (22/6)	138.34 (3/1)	170.99 (22/6/83)	4.40 (1/6/32)

	Aug. 10	Aug. 3	July 27	Year ago (Approx)
‡Indst'l div. yield %	4.05	4.00	3.88	6.26
Indust'l P/E ratio	14.04	14.20	14.60	7.14
Long Gov. Bond yield	11.99	11.76	11.47	13.11

N.Y.S.E. ALL COMMON

Aug. 12	Aug. 11	Aug. 10	Aug. 9	1983 High	1983 Low
93.34	93.40	93.30	92.53	99.01 (22.6)	80.92 (24.1)

Rises and Falls

	Aug. 12	Aug. 11	Aug. 10
Issues Traded	1,906	1,930	1,905
Rises	929	828	987
Falls	562	662	571
Unchanged	415	440	337
New Highs	23	15	15
New Lows	11	11	11

MONTREAL

	Aug. 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	1983 High	1983 Low
Industrial	424.22	424.71	426.50	424.29	448.10 (25/7)	351.18 (4/1)
Combined	399.42	400.11	401.54	400.85	420.99 (27/7)	325.12 (4/1)
TORONTO Composite	2588.20	2567.1	2535.3	2592.0	2617.7 (27/7)	1949.8 (4/1)

NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS

Friday	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day		Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Brunswick	2,501,700	39½	+ ¼	Amerada Hess	1,035,100	34⅝	+2½
Hospital Am.	1,832,400	46⅝	+ ¼	Fannie Mae	934,900	25	+1⅞
Gulf Oil	1,241,400	39	− ⅛	Exxon	836,000	36⅛	+ ¼
Chrysler	1,172,000	25½	− ¼	Schlumberger	679,500	61½	+1½
ATT	1,042,700	65⅛	+ ¼	Valero	676,400	32¼	+ ⅛

	Aug. 12	Aug. 11	Aug. 10	Aug. 9	1983 High	1983 Low
AUSTRALIA All Ord. (1/1/80)	661.7	663.3	666.4	662.9	686.2 (4/8)	487.8 (4/1)
Metals & Minls. (1/1/80)	568.4	569.9	578.5	572.5	608.8 (4/8)	411.8 (4/1)
AUSTRIA Credit Aktien (2/1/62)	55.30	55.38	55.36	55.32	59.9 (5/5)	48.48 (15/2)
BELGIUM Belgian SE (31/12/63)	130.01	128.52	127.27	128.02	134.43 (1/8)	100.50 (4/1)
DENMARK Copenhagen SE (3/1/83)	166.61	(u)	165.14	165.56	166.61 (12/8)	100.00 (3/1)
FRANCE CAC General (31/12/82)	(c)	131.2	130.2	130.0	131.9 (4/8)	96.1 (5/1)
Ind Tendance (31/12/82)	(c)	139.8	139.5	138.5	140.5 (4/8)	99.0 (5/1)
GERMANY FAZ-Aktien (31/12/58)	318.31	315.49	315.00	317.45	331.66 (7/7)	241.89 (25/1)
Commerzbank (Dec 1953)	944.4	934.8	932.2	940.8	986.3 (7/7)	727.9 (25/1)
HONG KONG Hang Seng Bank (31/7/64)	1037.46	1040.58	1029.74	1020.53	1102.64 (21/7)	781.81 (4/1)
ITALY Banca Comm Ital. (1972)	197.32	197.68	199.05	198.40	214.95 (21/3)	169.45 (19/1)
JAPAN** Dow Average (16/5/49)	8920.82	8903.61	8878.48	8874.22	9112.07 (28/7)	7803.18 (25/1)
Tokyo New SE (4/1/68)	658.75	657.59	654.86	654.47	671.86 (28/7)	574.51 (25/1)
NETHERLANDS ANP-CBS General (1970)	140.1	140.4	138.6	137.9	141.4 (27/7)	109.1 (4/1)
ANP CBS Indust (1970)	112.5	112.4	112.1	111.5	114.0 (27/7)	85.5 (4/1)
NORWAY Oslo SE (4/1/83)	203.15	202.77	198.86	199.81	203.15 (12/8)	99.01 (4/1)
SINGAPORE Straits Times (1966)	934.45	930.83	914.78	(c)	984.44 (17/6)	712.29 (5/1)
SOUTH AFRICA Gold (1958)	899.6	887.3	875.7	878.2	1089.5 (1/2)	684.3 (28/3)
Industrial (1958)	924.1	926.2	925.0	924.7	968.7 (28/6)	740.9 (5/1)
SPAIN Madrid SE (31/12/82)	118.07	118.95	119.53	119.56	120.62 (13/7)	98.32 (11/1)
SWEDEN Jacobson & P. (1/1/58)	1517.24	1510.55	1500.56	1511.21	1517.24 (12/8)	896.16 (3/1)
SWITZERLAND SwissBankCpn. (31/12/58)	343.2	344.3	344.3	342.7	347.0 (4/8)	294.4 (4/1)
WORLD Capital Intl* (1/1/70)	—	173.7	173.8	173.5	182.7 (22/6)	164.3 (3/1)

(**) Saturday Aug. 6: Japan Dow 8,961.09. TSE 659.41.
Base values of all indices are 100 except Australia All Ordinary and Metals—500. NYSE All Common—50; Standard and Poors—10; and Toronto—1,000; the last named based on 1975. † Excluding bonds. ‡ 400 Industrials. § 400 Industrials plus 40 Utilities, 40 Financials and 20 Transports. c Closed. u Unavailable.

AUSTRIA

BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG

DENMARK

CANADA

FRANCE

GERMANY

ITALY

NETHERLANDS

NORWAY

AUSTRALIA

SINGAPORE

SWEDEN

SWITZERLAND

HONG KONG

JAPAN

SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN

NOTES—Prices on this page are as quoted on the individual exchanges and are last traded prices. § Dealings suspended. xd Ex dividend. xc Ex scrip issue. xr Ex rights. xa Ex all.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE CLOSING PRICES

Continued from Page 19

NEW YORK CLOSING PRICES

Continued from Page 19

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

U.S. $50,000,000

City of Stockholm

Retractable Debentures Due March 15, 1998

MORGAN STANLEY INTERNATIONAL — POST- OCH KREDITBANKEN, PKBANKEN

ENSKILDA SECURITIES Skandinaviska Enskilda Limited — SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN GROUP

AMRO INTERNATIONAL Limited — CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON Limited

GOLDMAN SACHS INTERNATIONAL CORP. — IBJ INTERNATIONAL Limited

MERRILL LYNCH INTERNATIONAL & CO. — SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. Limited

UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND (SECURITIES) Limited — YAMAICHI INTERNATIONAL (EUROPE) Limited

May 16, 1983

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

U.S. $100,000,000

Avon International Finance N.V.

10¼% Guaranteed Notes Due 1992

Unconditionally guaranteed by

Avon Products, Inc.

MORGAN STANLEY INTERNATIONAL — THE NIKKO SECURITIES CO., (EUROPE) LTD.

AMRO INTERNATIONAL Limited — BANQUE PARIBAS — BAYERISCHE VEREINSBANK Aktiengesellschaft

CITICORP INTERNATIONAL BANK Limited — DEUTSCHE BANK Aktiengesellschaft — MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. Limited

MORGAN GUARANTY LTD — SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE S.A.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL Limited — UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND (SECURITIES) Limited

May 16, 1983

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

U.S. $100,000,000

American Express Overseas Finance Company N.V.

10¼% Guaranteed Notes Due 1990

Payment of principal and interest unconditionally guaranteed by

American Express Overseas Credit Corporation Limited

MORGAN STANLEY INTERNATIONAL — ORION ROYAL BANK Limited

SHEARSON/AMERICAN EXPRESS International Group

AMRO INTERNATIONAL Limited — ARAB BANKING CORPORATION (ABC) — COUNTY BANK LIMITED

CREDIT LYONNAIS — DRESDNER BANK Aktiengesellschaft — ENSKILDA SECURITIES Skandinaviska Enskilda Limited

KUWAIT FOREIGN TRADING CONTRACTING & INVESTMENT CO. (S.A.K.)

LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL Limited — MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. Limited

THE NIKKO SECURITIES CO., (EUROPE) LTD. — J. HENRY SCHRODER WAGG & CO. Limited

SOCIETE GENERALE — SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE S.A.

May 16, 1983

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

U.S. $50,000,000

Weyerhaeuser Capital Corp. N.V.

10½% Guaranteed Notes Due 1990

Payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest unconditionally guaranteed by

Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company

MORGAN STANLEY INTERNATIONAL

ALGEMENE BANK NEDERLAND N.V. — BANQUE PARIBAS

CHEMICAL BANK INTERNATIONAL Limited — CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON Limited

DEUTSCHE BANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT — GOLDMAN SACHS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

KUWAIT FOREIGN TRADING CONTRACTING & INVESTMENT CO. (S.A.K.)

SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE S.A. — SWISS BANK CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL Limited

UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND (SECURITIES) Limited

May 25, 1983

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Abbey Unit Tst. Mngrs. (a)
1-3 St Paul's Churchyard EC4P 4DX 01-236 1833

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int.	111.0	117.5	+0.4	10.21
High Inc Equity	51.7	55.0xd	...	6.55
Capital Growth				
American Growth	101.6	109.3	+0.1	1.78
Assets & Erngs. Tt.	53.9	58.3	-0.1	3.16
Commodity & Engy	78.9	84.8	...	2.44
General	86.3	93.3xd	-0.5	3.00
Japan	95.7	102.9	+1.5	0.19
UK Growth	51.3	55.8	-0.4	3.58
Acc Units	70.1	76.3	-0.6	3.58
Worldwide Bond	127.5	137.1	+0.2	4.01
Equitas Prog	122.1	132.0	-0.3	3.26

Aitken Hume
1, Worship St., EC2 01-628 6626

American Tech Fd	161.9	174.0	+1.0	0.10
Inc & Gwth Fd.	32.1	34.5	...	6.70
Japanese Tech Fd	48.5	51.4	...	—
Pacific Fd	120.1	129.7	+1.1	1.80
Secure Income Fd	107.7	115.7	+0.2	8.00
Special Sits	151.5	163.0	-0.7	1.00
Energy Fd	219.3	235.8	+3.2	1.32
Exempt Fd	381.9	410.5	—	—
Small Co's Fd	274.7	295.4	-0.5	2.00
Aitken Hume Ltd. Deposit Rates.				
Treasury Acct*	—	—	...	9.44
Mnthly Income Acct*	—	—	...	9.38

*Not Authorised U.T.—Bank Deposit.

Allied Hambro Ltd. (a) (g)
Hambro Hse., Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Brentwood (0277) 211459 & 229123

Balanced Funds				
Allied 1st	122.2	130.8	-0.2	4.38
Brit. Inds. Fund	109.5	117.2	...	4.59
Growth & Income	74.8	80.0xd	-0.4	3.29
Allied Capital	161.5	172.8	-0.5	1.67
Hambro Fund	196.2	209.9	-0.5	4.09
Hambro Acc. Fund	301.4	322.5	-0.5	3.47
Income Funds				
High Income	129.0	138.0	+0.3	5.72
Equity Income	69.3	74.1xd	...	6.25
High Yield	87.4	93.5	+0.2	7.22
Govt. Secs.	28.9	30.8	...	9.74
International Funds				
International	50.5	54.0xd	+0.2	1.11
Japan Fund	44.5	47.6	+0.4	0.01
Pacific Fund	91.3	97.7	+0.6	0.73
American Spec. Sits.	50.4	53.9	+0.1	0.54
Secs. Of America	139.6	149.4	+0.1	1.31
Specialist Funds				
Gilt Growth Fd.	29.3	31.2	...	1.38
Smaller Co's Fd.	81.7	87.4xd	+0.1	2.79
2nd Smlr. Co's Fd.	107.8	115.3	+0.1	2.84
Recovery	41.8	44.7	+0.1	2.42
Met. Min. & C'dty.	100.2	107.2	...	1.60
Overseas Earnings	117.1	125.3	-0.4	3.16
Technology Fund	82.8	88.6	-0.1	0.73
Exempt Funds				
Income Exempt	77.3	81.2xd	+0.3	5.86
Far East Exempt	95.5	100.3	+0.7	1.51
Smaller Co Exempt	145.5	152.8	-0.2	2.52
U.S.A. Exempt	221.8	232.9	+0.4	1.31

Anderson Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
62, London Wall, EC2R 7DQ 01-638 1200

Anderson U.T.	96.0	103.7	...	2.60

Anthony Wieler Unit Tst. Mgmt. Ltd.
19, Widegate St., London E1 7HP. 01-377 1010.

Wieler Gwth Fd. Inc.	54.0	58.1	...	2.50
Do. Accum.	71.6	77.0	...	—

Arbuthnot Securities Ltd. (a)(c)
37, Queen St., London, EC4R 1BY. 01-236 5281

Capital Growth	42.6	46.0	-0.3	2.54
(Accumulation)	44.2	47.7	-0.4	2.54
Commodity	96.2	104.0	+1.0	1.93
(Accumulation)	156.7	169.3	+1.7	1.93
(10% Withdrawal)	59.7	64.5	+0.6	1.93
Eastern & Internatl.	72.0	77.8	+0.8	1.00
(6% Withdrawal)	44.6	48.2	+0.5	1.00
Finance & Property	30.9	33.4	...	3.90
Foreign Gwth (5 for 1).	60.0	64.5	...	1.00
Gilt & Fixed	43.0	45.2xd	+0.2	10.75
(Accumulation)	58.7	61.7xd	+0.2	10.75
High Income	43.1	46.5xd	+0.1	8.25
(Accumulation)	88.0	95.1xd	+0.2	8.25
High Yield	49.4	53.4	+0.2	9.84
(Accumulation)	106.4	115.0	+0.1	9.84
North American	71.7	77.5	...	1.00
Preference	23.0	24.8xd	...	11.93
(Accumulation)	58.3	63.0xd	...	11.93
Smaller Companies	79.7	86.1	+0.1	1.31
(Accumulation)	82.6	89.2	+0.1	1.31
World Penny Share	9.5	10.3	...	2.46

Archway Unit Tst. Mgs. Ltd.(a)(c)
317, High Holborn, WC1V 7NL. 01-831 6233

Archway Fund	160.4	172.5	...	5.30
Archway Growth Fund	28.9	31.1	...	2.16

Prices August 11. Next sub August 18.

Arkwright Management
Parsonage Gdns., Manchester 061-834 2332.

Arkwright Fd Aug 9	129.0	137.3	...	3.29

Baillie Gifford & Co Ltd
3 Glenfinlas St, Edinburgh. 031-225 2581

Japan Ex Fd Aug 10	127.2	134.0	...	0.37

Barclays Unicorn Ltd.(a)(c)(g)
Unicorn Ho 252, Romford Rd, E7. 01-534 5544

Unicorn America	60.8	65.3	+0.2	1.12
Do. Aust. Acc.	137.7	148.0	-0.6	1.02
Do. Aust. Inc.	102.0	109.6	-0.5	1.02
Do. Capital	127.0	136.5xd	-0.2	4.48
Do. Exempt Tst.	210.1	227.1	-0.4	5.15
Do. Extra Income	40.4	43.4	+0.1	6.89
Do. Financial	128.9	138.6	+0.7	3.98
Do 500	140.9	151.4	+0.1	4.14
Do General	65.5	70.4	-0.1	4.28
Do Gilt & Fxd. Int. Inc.	51.1	53.5	+0.2	10.60
Do. Gtr Pacific Acc.	65.1	70.0	+0.8	0.50
Do. Gtr Pacific Inc.	64.7	69.5	+0.8	0.50
Do. Growth Acc.	102.2	109.8	-0.5	3.72
Do. Income Trust	156.8	168.5xd	-0.1	5.04
Do Prf A'ns. Tst.	70.8	76.1	...	3.82
Do Recovery	100.5	108.0	+0.2	2.78
Do Trustee Fund	56.0	60.2	-0.2	4.25
Do W'dwide Tst.	81.7	87.8xd	+0.3	0.76
B'tst In.Fd Acc.	164.3	177.6	-0.5	4.24
Do Income	117.2	126.6	-0.3	4.24

Baring Brothers & Co. Ltd.
8, Bishopsgate, EC2N4AE 01-283 8833

Stratton Trust	385.0	401.4		3.90
Do Accum	549.6	572.8		3.90

Next sub day Aug 23 (by 12 noon)

Bishopsgate Progressive Mgmt. Co.
66 St James's Street, SW1A 1NE 01-493 8111

B'gate Prog Aug 9	474.8	509.0		2.00
Acc. Units Aug 9	626.3	671.4		2.00
B'gate Int Aug 2	580.9	618.2		1.75
Accum Aug 2	691.3	735.6		1.75
Beckman Aug 10	128.8	134.9		—
Can & For Aug 11	71.9	77.0		2.10
Accum Aug 4	72.8	77.9		2.10

Bridge Fund Managers (a)(c)
Regis Hse., King William St., EC4 01-623 4951

Amer Gen †	61.1	65.7xd		0.98
Income*	75.0	80.7		5.50
Capital Inc ‡	95.4	91.9		2.13
Do. Acc ‡	106.6	114.7		2.13
Exempt‡	184.0	198.0xd		3.53
Intl Recovery Inc ‡	37.3	40.2		2.13
Do. Acc.‡	48.3	52.0		2.13

Dealing *Tues. ‡Wed. †Thur Prices August 9 10/11

Britannia Gp. of Unit Trusts Ltd. (a)(c)(g)
Salisbury House, 31, Finsbury Circus, London EC2
01-638 0478/0479 or 01-588 2777
Britannia Viewpoint 01-673 0048

UK Specialist Funds				
Assets	157.4	169.7	-0.4	3.34
Recovery	58.7	63.3	-0.3	3.03
Smaller Cos	90.2	97.2	+0.2	1.72
Spec. Mkt. Sits.	73.4	79.1	-0.1	1.49
UK Blue Chip	50.8	54.8	-0.2	3.16
High Income Funds				
Nat. High Inc.	105.3	114.1	+0.1	6.59
Extra Inc.	41.8	45.1xd	+0.1	8.74
Inc & Growth	111.0	119.7	+0.3	5.78
Gilt	25.6	26.9xd	+0.2	9.85
Pref Shares	18.5	19.9	...	10.57
Sector Specialist Funds				
Commodity Shares	148.9	160.5	+0.3	1.40
Financial Secs	143.8	155.0	-0.2	3.33
Gold & General†	30.5	33.3	+1.3	2.72
Inv. Tst. Shares	90.5	97.6xd	+0.1	1.60
Prop. Shares	25.8	27.8	...	2.49
Univ. Energy	65.8	70.9xd	+0.2	0.98
World Tech	50.9	54.9xd	+0.3	—
Overseas Funds				
American Growth	68.9	74.3	+0.3	1.81
Am. Smaller Cos.	23.4	25.2xd	-0.2	0.20
Am. Spec. Sits	67.9	73.2	+0.2	1.31
Australian Growth	61.1	65.9	-0.3	1.32
Far East	37.8	40.8	+0.4	1.31
Hong Kg. Performnce	20.4	22.0xd	...	3.07
Intl. Growth	104.4	112.6	+0.5	1.58
Japan Perf. Tst	27.2	29.3xd	+0.1	—
General Funds				
Capital Acc.	109.2	117.7	-0.4	2.91
Comm. & Ind.	83.3	89.8xd	-0.9	2.12
Domestic	71.0	76.5	-0.3	3.37
Growth	146.4	157.8	+0.2	1.35
Shield	77.8	83.9	-0.3	2.16
Exempt Funds				
Exempt	243.5	257.5	+0.1	4.53
Ex. Mk. Ldrs	48.9	51.7	-0.1	3.57
Cater Allen High Int. Current Acc.				
Deposit††	—	—	...	9.38

†Not authorised U.T.-Bank Deposit

Brown Shipley & Co. Ltd. (a)(g)
Harlands Hse, Haywards H'th, Sx. 0444-458144.

B.S. Fund (z)	39.4	42.6xd	...	4.32
B.S Accum (z)	61.1	66.0	...	4.32
Financial	68.8	74.0	+0.1	3.37
Growth Accum (z)	117.4	127.6	...	2.12
Growth Income	79.5	86.4	...	2.12
High Income(z)	34.2	36.8	-0.1	7.00
Income(z)	40.0	43.0	+0.1	5.10
North American	45.6	49.0	...	1.02
Orient(z)	35.3	38.6	+0.1	0.42
Recovery(z)	20.2	21.8	...	4.17
Technology	139.0	149.6	+0.1	0.40
Exempt	125.8	131.0	...	4.84

Buckmaster Management Co. Ltd. (a) (c)
The Stock Exchange, EC2P 2JT. 01-588 2868

Buck'ham Aug 11	125.5	132.3	...	3.46
Accum Uts Aug 11	185.9	196.0	...	3.46
Cum Fd Aug 10	63.6	67.3	...	6.72
Accum Units Aug 10	96.0	101.5	...	6.72
Marlboro Fd Aug 9	110.3	116.2	...	1.54
(Accum Uts) Aug. 9	139.5	147.0	...	1.54
Smaller Co's Aug 12	939.6	999.2xd	-0.8	1.29
(Accum Uts) Aug 12	970.8	1032.5xd	-0.8	1.29

Canada Life Unit Trust Mngrs. Ltd.
2-6 High St., Potters Bar, Herts. P. Bar 51122

Can. Gen Dist.	69.9	73.6xd	-0.3	3.30
Do. Gen. Accum	102.9	108.3	-0.5	3.30
Do. Income Dist.	48.4	50.9	-0.1	6.88
Do. Inc. Accum.	86.2	90.8	-0.1	6.85
Gilt & Fxd. Int. Trust	30.1	31.7xd	+0.1	—

Cannon Fund Managers Ltd. (z)
1, Olympic Way, Wembley, HA9 0NB. 01-902 8876

Cannon Gwth. Trust	155.8	167.5	+0.5	3.96
Cannon Inc. Trust	170.5	183.3	+1.1	5.92

Capel (James) Mngt. Ltd.
100, Old Broad St., EC2N 1BQ. 01-588 6010

Capital	194.8	207.3	...	1.43
Income	124.1	132.1	...	7.10
North American	202.3	215.3	...	1.31

Prices on Aug 10 Next dealing Aug 17.

Cater Allen Unit Tst. Managers
1, King William St, EC4N 7AU. 01-623 6314

Cater Allen Gilt Tst	99.9	106.2xd	+0.3	11.43

For Carr Sebag see F & C Unit Mngt

Cent. Bd. of Fin. of Church of England‡‡
77 London Wall, EC2N 1DB. 01-588 1815

Inv Fund July 31		260.45	...	4.90
Fxd Int Secs July 31		124.65	...	11.47
Dep Fnd Mnt July 31		100.0	...	10.00

Charinco Charities N/R Fund‡‡
15, Moorgate, London, EC2. 01-638 4121

Income July 29	144.63	—	...	10.51
Do. Accum.	329.15	—	...	10.51

Charities Official Invest. Fund‡‡
77 London Wall, EC2N 1DB. 01-588 1815

Income July 31		225.22	...	6.04
Accum. July 31		594.39	...	—

Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd (a) (g)
11, New St., EC2M 4TP. 01-283 2632.

American (z)	46.7	50.5	+0.1	0.71
Australian (z)	22.2	24.0	...	1.50
Far Eastern Tst. (z)	51.7	55.9xd	+0.3	0.23
High Income	39.4	42.7	+0.2	9.42
Intl. Trust (z)	49.9	53.9xd	+0.4	0.87
Basic Resources Tst.	47.7	51.6	+0.1	1.34
Incm. Growth Tst.	29.3	31.7xd	...	6.56
Pref & Gilt Tst.	19.2	20.8xd	...	12.15
Smaller Co's Trust	32.4	35.0	-0.1	2.31
Global Recovery Trust	28.7	31.0	...	3.54

Confederation Funds Mgt. Ltd. (a)
50, Chancery Lane, WC2A 1HE. 01-242 0282

Growth Fund	114.4	120.4	...	3.59

Craigmount Unit Tst. Mgrs. Ltd.
40, Bucklersbury, London EC4N 8BD. 01-248 4984

High Income	38.1	40.9xd	...	8.92
North American	82.3	88.6	+0.5	2.28
Canadian Trust	72.0	77.5	+0.5	1.92
Mid Mount High Inc *	52.1	54.3	...	7.85
Recovery	76.5	82.3	+0.3	2.37
Gilt Trust	37.2	38.5xd	...	10.23

*Weekly dealing day Wednesday

Crescent Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd. (a)(g)
4 Melville Cres., Edinburgh 3 031-226 3492

Cres. American	66.9	72.2	-0.1	0.76
Cres. Capital	41.0	44.2	...	1.98
Cres Growth & Inc	74.9	80.8	-0.2	4.33
Cres High Dist	60.8	65.6	+0.1	7.43
Cres. International	120.0	130.6	+0.5	1.05
Cres Resources	24.8	26.7	+0.1	2.25
Cres Tokyo	72.6	78.4	+0.5	0.16

Crown Unit Trust Services Ltd.
Crown Life Hse, Woking GU21 1XW 04862 24933

Crown High Inc. Trust	126.8	137.1		6.31
Crown Growth Trust	122.2	132.1		3.79

Dartington Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6JE 0803 862271

Total Perf Unit Tst	32.4	36.8		3.64

Discretionary Unit Fund Managers
36-38 New Broad St, EC2M 1NU 01-638 4485

Disc Inc Aug 12	328.2	350.0	-1.0	4.23

For Dunbar see Oppenheimer Fund Management

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Duncan Lawrie Fnd. Mgrs. (g)
1, Hobart Place, London SW1W 0HU. 01-245 9321

Growth	19.4	20.9	...	3.50
Income	33.3	35.8	...	8.80
Overseas	72.6	78.0	+0.5	5.70

For E. F. Winchester see Oppenheimer Practical Fund Management

Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd.
4 Melville Cres., Edinburgh. 031-226 4931

Edinburgh Exempt Funds*				
American Aug 10	112.8	117.6	...	2.04
Japan Aug 11	478.8	499.2	...	0.39
Pacific Aug 12	152.3	158.8	...	1.28

*Unauthorised.

Equity & Law Un. Tr. M. (a) (b) (c)
Amersham Rd., High Wycombe. 0494 33377

UK Gwth. Tst. Acc.	84.3	90.6	-0.2	3.42
UK Gwth. Tst. Inc.	79.8	85.8	-0.2	3.42
Higher Inc. Tst. Acc.	99.0	106.4	+0.2	6.40
Higher Inc. Tst. Inc.	91.3	98.1	+0.2	6.40
Gilts/Fxd.Int.Tst.Acc.	71.5	75.2	+0.2	4.01
Gilts/Fxd.Int.Tst.Inc.	67.1	70.6	+0.2	4.01
Nth America Tst.Acc.	108.3	118.4	...	0.47
Far East Tst. Acc.	65.5	70.4	+0.4	0.66
Gen. Tst.	141.0	151.6	-0.4	3.22

F & C Unit Management
1 Laurence Pountney Hill, EC4R 0BA. 01-623 4680

F & C Cap. Fd	72.6	78.5	-0.3	2.68
F & C Income Fd.	46.8	50.7	-0.1	6.62
Far Eastern Unit Fd	34.9	37.8	+0.2	1.25

FFI & Target Fund Managers Ltd.
Target House, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.
Aylesbury (0296) 5941

Small Co's. Fd	78.7	84.6	+0.4	0.25

Fidelity International Management Ltd.
River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. (0732) 362222

American (z)	75.4	81.8	+0.8	0.59
Amer. Spec. Sits. (z)	52.7	57.0	+0.1	—
Gilt & Fixed Int.	28.3	29.2	+0.1	11.07
Growth & Income	45.3	48.8	-0.1	5.59
Japan Trust (z)	43.5	46.8	+0.7	—
Managed Int. Tst. (z)	67.8	73.0	+0.8	0.41
Max. Inc. Eq. Tst.	40.0	43.1	...	7.64
Special Sits	71.4	77.7	-0.3	0.74

James Finlay Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
10-14, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 041-204 1321

J. Finlay Internat'l	68.0	73.1	...	0.63
Accum. Units	86.2	92.6	...	0.63
J. Finlay High Income	41.9	45.0	...	8.59
Finlay Wld. Energy	17.1	18.4	...	1.57
Accum. Units	22.8	24.5	...	1.57
J. Finlay Fd.In.Tst.	66.0	71.0	...	3.61
Accum. Units	92.3	99.2	...	3.61

Prices on Aug 10. Next dealing Aug 17.

Framlington Unit Mgt. Ltd. (a)
64, London Wall, EC2M 5NQ. 01-628 5181

Amer. & Gen.	183.0	195.6	+0.6	0.38
(Accum. Units)	184.2	197.0	+0.6	0.38
Am. T'around	170.8	182.6xd	+0.4	1.55
(Accum. Units)	174.6	186.6	+0.4	1.55
Capital Tst.	94.2	100.6	+0.6	3.42
(Accum. Units)	105.6	112.8	+0.4	3.42
Convertible & Gilt	61.0	64.2	+0.4	7.52
(Accum. Units)	71.0	74.6	+0.4	7.52
Extra Income Trust	71.8	76.6xd	...	6.85
Income Tst.	60.8	65.0	...	5.27
Int. Growth Fd.	137.2	146.6	+0.6	0.46
(Accum. Units)	150.2	160.6	+0.8	0.46
Recovery Trust	72.0	77.0xd	...	2.22
(Accum. Units)	74.4	79.4	...	2.22

Robert Fraser Trust Mgt. Ltd.
28b Albemarle St., W.1. 01-493 3211

Robt. Fraser Ut. Tst.	71.9	77.3	...	1.66

Friends Prov. Trust Managers (a)(b)(c)
Pixham End, Dorking. Tel. (0306) 885055

F.P. Equity Units	118.7	126.9	-0.2	2.42
Do. Accum.	184.7	197.5	-0.2	2.42
F.P. Gilt Units	92.9	99.3	+0.3	—
Do. Accum	92.9	99.3	+0.3	—

Funds in Court*
Public Trustee, Kingsway, WC2. 01-405 4300

Capital Aug 4	225.9	230.4	...	3.53
Gross Aug 4	101.1	106.8	...	10.30
High Yield Aug 4	123.5	127.8	...	8.92

*Unauth. Restricted to monies under Court control.

G.T. Unit Managers Ltd.
16, Finsbury Circus, EC2M 7DJ. 01-628 8131

G.T. Tech & Gwth	158.1	169.9	...	0.20
G.T. Cap. Income	249.5	268.2	-3.3	1.70
Do. Acc.	339.3	364.8	-5.0	1.70
G.T. Far East & Gen.	121.6	130.7	+2.0	0.40
G.T. Inc. Fd.	257.7	277.0	+3.6	7.00
G.T. Int'l Fund	362.8	396.5	-0.8	0.50
G.T. Japan & General	191.4	205.8	-5.5	0.60
G.T. Pens Ex Fd.	537.5	565.7	+6.0	1.20
G.T. U.S. & Gen.	492.4	529.4	+7.1	0.40
G.T. European Fund	183.1	196.7	-2.4	1.10

G. & A. Trust (a) (g)
5 Rayleigh Road, Brentwood (0277) 227300

G. & A.	65.9	70.4	-0.3	3.89

Gartmore Fund Managers (a) (c) (g)
2 St. Mary Axe, EC3A 8BP 01-623 1212
Dealing only: 01-623 5766/5806

American Trust	73.6	79.7	-0.1	0.50
Australian Trust	20.1	21.7	...	0.58
British Tst. (Acc.)	152.1	163.6	-0.1	1.99
British Tst. (Dist.)	141.3	152.0xd	-0.1	1.99
Commodity Share	60.7	65.3	...	1.75
Extra Income	26.0	28.0	...	7.78
Far East Trust	59.2	63.7	+0.4	1.46
Fixed Int Fd.	23.7	25.5xd	...	10.99
Gilt Trust	26.4	27.5	+0.1	10.64
Gold Share Trust(z)	22.8	24.6	...	2.85
High Income Tst.	66.0	71.0xd	-0.1	8.21
Hong Kong Trust	22.9	23.9	-0.1	3.00
Income Fund	31.1	33.5xd	+0.1	6.13
Ins. Agencies	£24.68	26.68	-0.08	3.02
Inc. & Grth Exempt	169.4	183.2	+0.4	4.74
Intl. Tst. (Acc.)	79.7	85.7	+0.8	0.85
Japan Trust	50.2	54.0xd	+0.4	0.39
Oil & Energy Trust	33.9	36.5	+0.1	0.97
Special Sits. Tst.	48.7	52.3	...	2.01
UK Sm. Co. Rec. Trust	34.2	36.8	...	2.08

Govett (John) Unit Mngt. Ltd.
77 London Wall, EC2 01-588 5620

Govett American	54.9	59.3	+0.5	0.75
Govett Japan	47.1	50.9	+0.9	0.29
Stockholders*	261.0	277.1xd	...	1.29
(Accum Units)*	344.8	366.1	...	1.29
Stckhldrs Europe*	83.8	87.8	...	1.30

*Prices on August 5. Next dealing August 19.

Grieveson Mgmt—Barrington Funds
59 Gresham Street, EC2P 2DS 01-606 4433

General Aug 10.	542.0	576.6xd		3.44
(Accum. Units)	694.6	739.0		3.44
High Yield Aug 11	229.3	244.0		8.31
(Accum Units)	387.6	412.4		8.31
Gilt Aug 9	111.3	114.8		9.55
(Accum Units)	137.6	141.6		9.55
Smaller Co Aug 12	202.7	215.7	-1.9	2.56
(Accum Units)	226.8	241.3	-2.2	2.56
Pacific Aug 9	633.2	661.7		1.12
(Accum Units)	701.4	732.8		1.12
North Am Aug 12	230.2	243.0	+0.1	0.74
(Accum Units)	258.5	272.9		0.74
European Aug 10	168.3	176.0		1.82
(Accum Units)	201.1	210.2		1.82

Guardian Royal Ex. Unit Mgrs. Ltd.
Royal Exchange EC3V 3LS 01-638 2020
Continued above Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealing Page Sat.

Henderson Administration (a) (b) (c)
Premier UT Admin, 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brntwd, Essex. 0277 217238-227 300

U.K. Funds				
Special Sits.	72.6	78.0	...	1.72
(Accum. Units)	97.9	105.3	...	1.72
Recovery	58.6	63.7	-0.4	2.89
Cap. Growth	144.2	156.0	-0.7	1.34
Acc. Units	159.4	171.4	-0.8	1.34
Inc. & Assets	53.8	57.9	...	5.61
High Income Funds				
Inc. & Growth	72.8	76.6	+0.1	4.58
(Accum. Units)	127.6	134.3	+0.1	4.58
High Income	86.5	92.6xd	+0.4	6.54
Extra Inc.	80.1	85.7	+0.2	6.99
Smaller Cos. Div.	57.9	62.3xd	...	6.95
Pref. & Gilt	46.4	49.4	...	11.53
Gilt Trust	44.5	47.3	+0.1	9.39
Fixed Interest	48.8	52.5	-0.6	10.86
Sector Funds				
Financial	64.2	68.2	+0.1	3.04
Oil & Nat. Res.	51.3	87.4xd	-0.7	1.76
International				
Global Tech.	87.0	93.1xd	+0.7	0.25
International	98.6	106.0	+0.3	0.01
World Wide Aug 8	226.6	241.1	...	2.58
Overseas Funds				
Australian	71.2	76.4	-0.3	1.08
European	94.2	101.3	+0.6	1.40
Japan Trust	57.9	62.3xd	+0.7	0.05
Japan Special Sits.	63.1	67.8	+0.8	0.01
Pacific Sm. Cos.	116.7	129.9	+1.0	0.82
North Amer.	108.1	115.7xd	-0.6	0.77
American Smaller	49.2	53.1	+0.5	0.01
Amer. Recvry. Tst.	90.1	96.4	+0.2	1.38
Exempt Funds				
High Income (b)	185.1	192.8	...	6.12
Smlr. Cos. (b)	265.2	276.2	-0.6	2.36
European Aug 11	197.2	205.4	...	1.21
Japan Aug 11	214.9	223.9xd	...	0.31
Nth Amer Aug 11	329.4	343.1	...	0.78
Global Technology	197.1	205.3	...	0.01
Pacific Exempt Tst	130.2	135.6	...	2.84

Hexagon Services Ltd.
4 Gt. St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP 0708 45322
Continued above Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings Page Sat.

Hill Samuel Unit Tst. Mgrs.† (a)
45 Beech St., EC2P 2LX 01-628 8011

(b) British Trust	291.4	311.7	...	3.56
(b) Capital Trust	57.3	61.3xd	...	3.05
(g) Dollar Trust	158.1	169.1	+0.4	1.46
(g) European Trust	44.4	47.5xd	+0.2	1.00
(g) Far East	61.5	65.8	+0.2	0.97
(b) Financial Trust	180.1	192.7	...	3.58
(b) Gilt & Fxd. Int. Tst.	26.7	27.8	...	10.73
(b) Gilt/F.I Growth	33.3	34.7	...	3.73
(b) High Yield Tst	34.8	37.3	...	8.33
(b) Income Trust	40.9	43.8	...	6.41
(g) Int'l Trust	72.5	77.5	+0.4	1.51
(g) Nat. Resources Tst.	37.4	40.0	+0.1	1.51
(b) Security Trust	93.5	100.0	+1.0	3.49
(b) Smaller Cos Tst	38.6	41.3	+0.2	1.85
(b) Spec. Sits. Tst	65.1	69.7	...	1.80
Gen Exempt July 17	£231.0	254.8	...	4.13

HK Unit Trust Managers Ltd. (a)
3 Fredericks Place, EC2R 8HD. 01-588 4111

HK American Tst.	54.4	58.5	+0.4	1.80
HK Extra Income Tst.	26.5	28.5xd	-0.2	8.90
HK Far East & Gn. Tst.	52.1	56.1xd	+0.3	1.10
HK Comm. & Gen.	57.4	61.8	+0.1	3.10
HK Income Tst.	42.6	45.9	+0.2	6.70
HK Japan Tst	42.7	45.5	+0.6	0.70
HK Market Leaders	62.8	67.5	-0.2	3.70
HK Private Tst.	72.7	78.1xd	-1.9	2.20
HK Smaller Co's Tst.	84.5	90.9	-0.1	1.80
HK Technology Tst.	113.1	121.7	+0.3	0.60
HK Australia Tst	29.0	30.9	...	2.00

Investment Bank of Ireland (a)
Premier UT Admin, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex (0277) 211459

Sterling Brk & O's	73.6	79.2	...	2.32

Prices Aug. 9. Next sub day Aug. 16.

Key Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(g)
1/3, Worship St., EC2A 2AB. 01-628 6626.

Key Equity&Gen	109.2	117.3	-0.1	4.8
Key Income Fund	101.2	108.7	+0.2	8.00
Key Fixed Int. Fd.	60.8	65.3	...	10.84

Kleinwort Benson Unit Managers
20, Fenchurch St., EC3 01-623 8000

K.B. Unit Fd. Inc.	160.4	178.4xd	+0.6	3.74
K.B UnitFd.Ac.	250.1	278.0	+0.8	3.74
K.B. Fd. Inv. Tsts.	119.7	133.1	+0.6	2.94
K.B.Fd.In.Tst.Acc.	140.9	156.5	+0.6	2.94
KBSmlrCo'sFdInc	94.4	105.9	+0.5	4.07
KB.Sm.Cos Fd.Acc.	116.3	129.3	+0.6	4.07
KB High Yld Fd. Inc.	66.4	73.9	+0.5	7.55
KBHighYld.Acc.	94.5	105.1	+0.6	7.55

L & C Unit Trust Management Ltd.,
Piercy Hse, Copthall Av, EC2R 7BE 01-588 2800

L&C Inc. Fund	214.1	220.8xd	+2.9	6.64
L&C Intl & Gen Fd	192.8	198.8xd	-1.4	0.75

Lawson Fund Managers Ltd. (a) (c) (g)
43, Charlotte Sq., Edinburgh 2 031-225 6001
Continued above Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Page Sat.

Legal & General (Unit Tst., Mngrs.) Ltd.
5 Rayleigh Rd., Brentwood 0277 217238

Equity Dis	159.3	172.2	-0.5	2.55
Equity Acc.	232.3	251.1	-0.7	2.55
Gilt	57.9	61.1	+0.2	5.24
Int Managed	47.6	51.5	...	2.93

Leonine Administration Ltd.
20 Copthall Ave, EC2R 7JS. 01-600 7595

Leo Distribution	250.7	266.1	...	0.01
Leo Accum.	298.8	317.1	...	0.01

Lloyds Bk. Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd. (a)
Registrar's Dept., Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, W.Sx. 0903 502541. Dealing 0444 459144

Balanced	107.9	116.0	-0.6	3.62
Do (Accum.)	177.1	190.4	-1.2	3.62
Energy Int	52.6	56.5xd	+0.1	1.72
Do (Accum.)	55.4	59.5	+0.1	1.72
Extra Income	85.1	91.5	+0.1	5.68
Do (Accum.)	132.3	142.2	+0.2	6.58
Income	139.2	149.6		4.93
Do (Accum.)	245.0	263.4	-0.1	4.93
Int. Technology	146.5	157.5	+0.6	0.48
Do (Accum.)	150.6	161.9	+0.6	0.48
N. American & Gen	85.3	91.7xd	-0.4	0.40
Do (Accum.)	89.0	95.6	+0.4	0.40
Pacific Basin	69.1	74.3	+0.5	0.45
Do (Accum)	70.9	76.2	+0.5	0.45
Small Cos. & Recy	101.8	109.4	+0.1	1.68
Do (Accum.)	109.4	117.6	+0.1	1.68
Worldwide Gwth	138.2	149.2	+0.3	0.92
Do (Accum.)	190.0	204.3	+0.3	0.92

Lloyd's Life Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd.
2, St Mary Axe, EC3A 8BP. 01-920 0311

Equity Accum. (2)	74.9	80.6	...	2.92
Equity Dist.	56.3	60.6	...	2.92
U.S. Growth	46.8	49.8	...	0.89

Local Authorities' Mutual Invest. Tst.*
77, London Wall, EC2N 1DB. 01-588 1815

Property Fd July 31		161.80	...	6.24
Wider Fd July 31		401.15	...	4.16
Narrower Fd July 31		87.10	...	11.20

*Unauthorised. Available only to Local Authorities.

M & G Group (y)(c)(z)
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ. 01-626 4588

American	129.2	138.2xd	+1.2	1.27
(Accum Units)	144.3	154.4	+1.4	1.27
American Recovery	174.9	188.9	+1.5	0.92
(Accum Units)	184.5	199.3	+1.6	0.92
American Smllr Co's	45.1	48.3	+0.2	1.74
Australasian	80.9	86.6	-0.4	0.79
(Accum Units)	86.5	92.6	-0.5	0.79
Commodity	156.4	167.4xd	-0.3	2.01
(Accum Units)	195.1	208.8	-0.3	2.01
Compound Growth	239.5	261.0	+1.8	2.81
Conversion Growth	186.4	199.5	+1.3	1.41
Conversion Income	103.2	110.4xd	+0.3	7.26
Dividend	189.2	202.2	+0.8	6.62
(Accum Units)	490.4	534.5	+2.0	6.62
European	79.3	84.8xd	-0.3	1.23
(Accum Units)	91.9	98.3	-0.4	1.23
Extra Yield	111.7	121.7	+0.6	7.81
(Accum Units)	207.8	226.5	+1.2	7.81
Far Eastern	123.3	134.4	+0.8	1.24
(Accum Units)	145.0	158.0	+0.9	1.24
Fund of Inv. Tsts.	138.1	147.8	+0.5	3.32
(Accum. Units)	202.2	216.4	+0.8	3.32
General	323.6	347.9xd	+1.6	5.14
(Accum. Units)	622.7	669.4	+3.2	5.14
Gilt Income	54.3	57.0xd	-0.1	10.43
(Accum. Units)	67.4	70.8	-0.2	10.43
Gold	52.4	56.1	+0.2	2.04
High Income	151.7	165.4xd	+0.8	6.90
(Accum. Units)	357.3	389.5	+2.0	6.90
Japan	290.3	310.6	+4.0	0.11
(Accum. Units)	309.2	330.8	+4.3	0.11
Magnum	517.2	558.4xd	+1.2	3.01
(Accum Units)	775.8	837.9	+1.8	3.01
Midland	229.7	250.4	+0.7	5.97
(Accum. Units)	512.5	558.6	+1.6	5.97
Recovery	155.5	169.5xd	+0.1	3.42
(Accum. Units)	187.3	204.2	+0.1	3.42
Second General	373.6	407.2xd	+1.4	4.03
(Accum. Units)	678.3	739.4	+2.6	4.03
Smaller Companies	379.5	413.7xd	-0.9	3.31
(Accum. Units)	557.5	607.7	+1.4	3.31
Trustee	242.2	264.0	+0.9	5.30
(Accum. Units)	612.8	667.9	+2.3	5.30
Charbond Aug 9	104.0xd	—	...	11.79
Charifund Aug 9	206.3	208.4xd	...	7.60
Pension Ex Aug 8	243.8	257.2	...	5.74

MGM Unit Managers Ltd.
MGM Hse., Heene Rd., Worthing 01-623 8211
Continued above Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings page Sat.

Mallinhall Limited
36 Berkeley Sq., London W1X 5DA. 01-499 6634

MallinhallMoneyFd.*	—	—	...	8.82

*Unauthorised—Call Deposit Fund.

Manulife Management Ltd.
St. George's Way, Stevenage 0438 356101

Gilt&Fxd Int.	77.3	78.9	-0.3	3.54
Growth Units	122.6	129.0	+0.5	3.08
Intl. Growth Unit Trust	67.8	71.4	-1.8	1.11

Mayflower Management Co. Ltd.
14-18, Gresham St., EC2V 7AU. 01-606 8099

Income Aug 8	137.6	144.9	...	6.61
General Aug 8	108.9	114.7	...	2.70
Intnl Aug 8	79.4	83.6	...	1.31

McAnally Fund Management Ltd.
Regis Hse., King William St., EC4. 01-623 4951

Delphi Inc. Tst. Acc.	54.4	51.9	...	7.10
Delphi Inc. Tst. Inc.	33.9	36.1xd	...	7.10
Glen Fund Acc.	152.7	162.5	...	3.28
Glen Fund Inc.	99.3	105.7	...	3.28

Mencap Unit Trust Mngrs Ltd (a)(c)(g)
Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, E7. 01-534 5544

Murray Johnstone U.T. Mgmt. (a)
163, Hope Street, Glasgow, G2 2UH 041-221 5521

Murray American	77.9	80.2		3.27
Murray European	80.2	86.2		1.02
Murray Smaller Cos.	102.5	111.2		2.31

Next dealing Fri.

National Provident Inv. Mngrs. Ltd.
48, Gracechurch St., EC3P 3HH 01-623 4200

NPI Gth Un Tst.	103.2	109.8		3.50
(Accum. Units)	155.1	165.0	-0.1	3.50
NPI O'seas Trust.	306.7	324.6	-0.3	0.80
(Accum. Units)	359.1	380.0	+0.3	0.80

National Westminster (a)
161, Cheapside, EC2V 6EU. 01-726 1999

Capital (Accum.)	193.2	207.7	+0.9	1.72
Energy Tst.	56.3	60.5xd	+1.0	0.98
Extra Inc.	95.8	103.0	+0.3	6.21
Financial	70.5	75.8xd	+0.8	3.53
Growth Inv.	167.1	179.6	-0.2	3.07
Income	72.0	77.4	...	4.91
Japanese & Pac. Gth.	63.1	67.8	+0.2	1.14
North Am-Gwth. Tst.	91.3	98.1	+0.9	0.59
Portfolio Inv. Fd	111.4	117.8	-0.2	4.15
Recovery Trust	80.9	86.9xd	-1.4	2.04
Smaller Companies	114.0	122.5	...	2.39

NEL Trust Managers Ltd. (a) (g)
Milton Court, Dorking, Surrey. 0306 887766

Nelstar	98.4	103.6	-0.2	3.66
Nelstar Gilt & F.I.	60.9	62.4xd	...	9.18
Nelstar High Inc.	46.4	48.8	-0.1	6.55
Nelstar International.	84.6	89.1xd	-0.1	2.40

Northgate Unit Trust Managers Ltd. (c)(y)
3 London Wall Bldgs, EC2M 5PU. 01-638 1212

Northgate Aug 11	123.4	130.9	...	3.82
(Accum. Units)	142.7	151.3	...	3.82

Norwich Union Insurance Group (b)
P.O. Box 4, Norwich, NR1 3NG. 0603 22200

Group Tst. Fund	768.5	808.9	-1.5	3.52

Oppenheimer Fund Management Ltd.
66 Cannon St., London EC4N 6AE

Practical 01-623 8893				
Income Units	30.8	33.1	-0.1	3.42
Accum. Units	51.9	55.7	...	3.43
Oppenheimer Trusts 01-236 3885				
American Gwth	—	—	...	—
Japan Gwth.	—	—	...	—
Gt Winchester	27.8	29.8xd	...	5.30
International Growth	68.4	73.9xd	+0.2	0.46
Income & Growth	27.0	29.0	-0.1	5.12
Special Situations	40.8	44.0	...	0.68
Money Funds 01-236 1425				
Call†	—	—	...	8.78
7-day £†	—	—	...	8.68
High Int Dep Acc.	—	—	...	8.97
7-day $†	8.43	—	...	8.50

†Unauthorised—Cash Deposit Funds.

Pearl Trust Managers Ltd. (a)(g)(z)
252, High Holborn, WC1V 7EB. 01-405 8441

Pearl Growth Fd.	47.8	51.4	+0.1	3.12
Accum Units	67.9	73.1	+0.2	3.12
Pearl Inc	54.9	59.1	...	5.47
Pearl Unit Tst.	64.6	69.5	-0.1	4.32
(Accum. Units)	102.8	110.6	-0.3	4.32

Pelican Units Admin. Ltd. (g)(x)
57-63, Princess St., Manchester. 061-236 5685

Pelican Units	201.6	216.8	...	4.44

Perpetual Unit Trust Mngmt. (a) (z)
48, Hart St., Henley on Thames 04912 6868

Growth	129.3	139.5	...	1.34
Income	87.3	94.2	...	6.07
Worldwide Recovery	75.8	81.8	...	1.87

Provincial Life Co. Ltd.
222, Bishopsgate, EC2. 01-247 6533

Prolific Far East	79.0	84.6	+0.8	—
Prolific Gilt Cap	70.2	72.8	+0.2	2.74
Prolific High Inc	80.6	86.4	-0.1	5.75
Prolific Intl.	68.3	73.2	+0.5	1.15
Prolific N. Amer.	99.6	106.7	+0.6	1.38
Prolific Spec. Sits	89.3	95.7	-0.5	1.48
Prolific Technology	110.9	118.8	+0.5	0.28

Prudl. Portfolio Mngrs. Ltd. (a) (b) (c)
Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH. 01-405 9222

Prudential	243.0	258.5	-0.5	3.60
Vanbrugh Gilt	123.0	128.0xd	+0.5	6.42

Quilter Management Co. Ltd.
31-45 Gresham Street EC2 01-600 4177

Quadrant Gen. Fd	275.4	286.9	...	2.19
Quadrant Income	140.8	145.2xd	...	6.92
Quadrant Intl. Fund	259.6	267.7	...	1.33
Quadrant Recovery	155.2	160.0	...	2.13
Wickmoor Fund	114.3	119.0xd	+0.9	4.43
(Accum Units)	165.7	172.6xd	+1.4	4.43
Wickmoor Div Fd.	96.5	100.5	+1.6	7.16
(Accum Units)	153.0	159.3	+2.5	7.16

Reliance Unit Mgrs. Ltd.
Reliance Hse., Tunbridge Wells, Kt. 0892 22271

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Authorised Units—continued

Equity & Law Un Tst Mngs (a) (b) (c)
Amersham Rd. High Wycombe. 0494 33377

Euro Tst Acc	58.4	62.7	+0.2	1.62

Robert Fleming & Co Ltd
8 Crosby Square EC3A 6AN. 01-283 2400

AmExFd*	£269.17	257.27	.	0.63
JpExFd*	£149.60	154.48		1.20

Next subscription day Aug 16 1983.
*Fleming American Property Unit Trust.
Latest issue price (15 5) US$10.519.
Units are issued on Feb 15 May, Aug Nov.
*Fleming Property Unit Trust.
Latest issue price (24 6) £2 067
Units are issued on March 25, June 24, Sept 29 & Dec 25.
*Unauthorised.

Guardian Royal Ex Unit Mgrs Ltd (a)
Royal Exchange EC3V 3LS. 01-638 2020

(b)GREGtFI	112.0	116.4	+0.5	9.96
(g)GRENAmT	94.7	101.9	+0.4	2.45
(g)GREPacT	100.5	108.1	+0.6	1.16
(b)PrptyShTst	95.3	102.8	..	1.95
(b)GREGthEq	97.8	105.2		2.52
G'nhill Tst	188.1	194.9	-1.2	3.21
(b)GRESmCo	111.5	119.3	..	1.30

H.B L. Unit Trust Mngrs Ltd (a) (c) (g)
Premier NT Admin S. Rayleigh Rd. Hutton Brentwood. Essex. 0277-227300

Smllr Cos Tst	50.3	52.9	+0.1	1.41
N Amer Tst	48.1	50.6	+0.2	2.47
JapnFarETst	50.2	52.8	-0.1	3.07

Hexagon Services Ltd
4 Gt St Helens. London EC4P 3EP. 0708 45322

AustFrsGw	111.1	117.0xd	..	1.80
Brewin Cap	83.2	87.6xd	...	0.59
BrewinGrInc	74.1	78.0xd	...	4.03
CanGwthFd	100.7	108.3	...	1.04

Lawson Fund Managers Ltd (a) (c) (g)
43 Charlotte Sq Edinbgh 2. 031-225 6001

Aust & Pac	8.7	9.3		
High Yield ‡	20.9	22.4	...	9.78
Do Accum	21.1	22.6xd	...	9.73

*Dealing Thurs. ‡ Dealing Fri.

MGM Unit Managers Ltd
MGM House. Heene Road. Worthing 01-623 8211

High Inc	130.8	140.6	+0.1	6.06
(Accum Uts)	132.6	142.6	+0.1	6.06
UK Growth	124.8	134.2	-0.6	3.42
(Accum Uts)	125.1	134.5	-0.6	3.42

MLA Unit Trust Management Ltd
Old Queen Street SW1A 9JG 01-222 8576

MLA Units	180.5	189.5	...	2.82
MLA Int	28.0	29.3	...	0.87

The Money Market Trust
63 Qn Victoria St EC4N 4ST. 01-236 0952

Call Fund	—	—	...	9.00
7 Day Fund	—	—	...	9.02

*Unauthorised—Sterling Deposit Fund.

Offshore and Overseas—continued

Actibonds Investment Fund SA
37 rue Notre Dame. Luxembrg. Tel. 47971

Actibonds In	—	$18.97	—

Bamford Brandt Guernsey Mngt Ltd
PO Box 71. St Peter Port. Guernsey. 0481 26541

Tch&Comms	£9.42	9.98	—
Intl Growth	$16.67	19.78	—

CAL Investments (IoM) Ltd
16 St Georges St Douglas IoM. 0624 25031

CALCM&C	89.2	93.9	—
CALMetals	90.5	93.3	—

Dealing days every Monday.

CAL Investments (Bermuda) Ltd
PO Box 1022 Hamilton, Bermuda (809-29) 5-5950

CAL CTR Fd	85.0	91.0	—

Dealing days every Monday.

Commodity Advisory Svcs (IoM) Ltd
48 Athol St, Douglas, IoM. 0624-20845

Com&FFd(Acc)	94.80	98.75	—
Com&FFd(Dst)	94.80	98.75	—

Next dealing date Aug 15.

Citibank (CI) Ltd "Citifunds"
Channel Is Transatlantic Inv Fds Ltd
Green St. St Helier 0534-70334

U.S. $ Fund	$10.162	+0.002	—
£ Sterling Fund	£5.082	+0.001	—
SwissFrancFd	SF20.118	+0.002	—
JpneseYenF	Y2 018.697	+0.275	—
DeutschmkFd	DM20.125	+0.002	—
Managed Fund	$10.085	-0.002	—

DunVest Ltd
PO Box 887. Grand Cayman.

NAV	$159.74		—

First Gold & Metals Trust PLC
60 St James's St London SW1. 01-493 4341

First Gold	9.210		—

Forbes Securities Management Co.
PO Box 887 Grand Cayman BWI
London Agents 01-839 3013

Gold Income	—	$9.87	—
Gold Appreciation	—	$8.75	—
Dollar Income	—	$9.53	

Framlington Overseas Fund Mngt Ltd
PO Box 71 St Peter Port Guernsey. 0481 26541

O'seas&Gth£	47.1	51.0	—
O'seas&Gth$	—	—	—

Lloyds Bank International, Geneva
PO Box 438 1211 Geneva 11 (Switzerland)

LlydsIntDllr	95.1	50.1	—
LlydsIntG	SF897.0	955.5	—
LlydsIntIn	SF295	306.5	—
LlydsIntPac	SF99.6	104.5	—

Management International Ltd
Bk of Bermuda Bldg Bermuda. 809-295-4000

Bda IBFC	$15.83	16.00	—
Bda IBFI	$11.11xd	11.23xd	—
Bda IEFC	10.04	10.25	—
Bda IEFI	10.04	10.25	—

Prices on Aug 10 Next dealing Aug 17

Manufacturers Hanover Geofunds
PO Box 92 St Peter Port. Guernsey. 0481 23961

LA Inc	$102.09	102.31	...	9.48
LA Acc$	$123.17	123.43	...	11.19
MIT Inc	$109.63	110.79	...	6.85
MIT Acc$	$124.89	125.52	...	17.73

Marine Midland (CI) Ltd
140 B'way NY 10015. USA. 212-440-1000
Queens Hse Don Rd. St Helier. 0534 71460

Intcurcy	$10.20	—	—

Initial offer. Next sub day Aug. 19

Nat Westminster Jersey Fd Mgrs Ltd
23 25 Broad St. St Helier. Jersey 0534 70041
County Bank Currency Fund Ltd (z)

Dollar class	$20.3835	+0.0043	—
Sterling class	£10.2078	+0.0022	—
D-mark cl	DM50.4200	+0.005	—
Dutch Gldr	DFl50.4593	+0.006	—
Jap Yen cl.	Y5059.00	-0.7759	—

Norcap Fund Managers (Bermuda) Ltd
Bank of Bermuda Bldg. Bermuda. 809 29 5400

Amer Tst	$10.89	11.33	—

Perpetual UT Managers (Jersey) Ltd
PO Box 459 St Helier, Jersey. 0534 74517

Offshore Gr	$1.12	1.1926	2.00

Rothschild Asset Management (CI)
St Julian's Ct St Peter Port. Guernsey. 0481 26741

OC International Reserves Ltd

Bel Francs	BFr855.70		7.05
Canadian $	C$36.76	+0.01	7.84
D-Mark	DM50.78	+0.01	4.04
Dutch Guilder	Fl50.295	+0.005	4.58
French Franc	FFr163.29	..	11.56
Italian Lire	L36.773		13.86
Japanese Yen	Y6 271.97	+0.89	5.56
Singapore $	S$63.70	+0.01	6.89
£ Sterling	£14.328	+0.004	3.43
Swiss Francs	SwFr45.835	+0.004	3.43
U.S. $	$29.74	+0.01	8.87

Daily dealings.
For other Rothschild Offshore Funds see Offshore and Overseas section.

Schroder Mngt Services (Jersey) Ltd
PO Box 195 St Helier Jersey. 0534 27561
Schroder Money Funds Ltd

Sterling	£13.9004		—
U.S Dollar	$26.1686		—
D-Mark	DM51.1221		—
Swiss Franc	SwFr50.8612		—

Tyndall-Guardian Management Ltd
PO Box 1256 Hamilton Bermuda

T-G Am	$22.91		—
T-G Money	$21.29		—
T-G E Bond	$15.43		—
T-G Com	$20.21		—
T-G Mort	$19.69		—
T-G O'seas	$12.34		—
T-G Pacific	Y7042		—
T-G Wall St	$25.30		—

United Fund Managers Ltd
76-15 Queens Road Central, Hong Kong. 5-231417

S&MIv T	US$9.31	10.27	—

Insurances—continued

Albany Life Assurance Co Ltd
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. 0707-42311

Pension Funds				
EqPenFdAc	593.6	624.8	-2.4	—
Fix I Pen Ac	392.5	413.2	+1.2	—
GtMinPnAc	243.1	255.8	+0.1	—
Intl Man	240.8	253.4	+0.6	—
Jap Pens Fd	105.5	111.0	-0.2	—
NAmPFdAc	136.1	143.2	+0.8	—
Prop Pn Ac	223.3	235.0	+0.1	—
MpInPnAc	392.2	515.0	-0.2	—

Commercial Union Group
St Helens. 1 Undershaft. EC3. 01-283 7500

An Uts Aug 13	—	148.50	+0.56	—
An Uts Aug 19	—	33.44	+0.07	—
Prime Series				
Managed	117.1	123.0	...	—
UK Equity	120.7	127.1	-0.4	—
Int Equity	112.7	118.7	+0.4	—
Property	100.6	105.9		—
Fixed Int	103.4	108.9	+0.4	—
Indx Lnkd Gt	86.6	91.2	+0.1	—
Cash	98.0	103.2	...	—
Hand-In Hand				
Cash	119.7	126.1	...	—
Fixed In	133.4	140.5	...	—
Property	138.7	146.1	...	—
NatWest	181.1	190.7	...	—

Continental Life Insurance PLC
64/70 High St. Croydon, CR0 9XN. 01-680 5225

Equity Acc	146.6	154.4	.	—
Prppty Acc	134.1	141.2	..	—
Int Acc	143.8	—	...	—
Mangd Acc	145.6	—	.	—
PenEqtyAcc	172.4	181.5	.	—
Pens Prp Ac	147.1	154.9	..	—
PensIntlAcc	135.0	142.2	..	—
PenMgdAcc	150.1	158.1	..	—

Gilt, Deposit, Index Fund prices available on request.

Friends' Provident Life Office
Pixham End, Dorking. (0306) 885055

Life Funds				
Cash Accum	90.1	101.2	+0.1	—
UK Eqty Ac	104.5	110.1	-0.2	—
Fxd Int Acc	94.7	99.7	+0.3	—
Indx Lkd Acc	88.9	93.6		—
Mxd Acc	99.1	134.4	-0.1	—
O'seasEqAc	98.5	103.7	-1.0	—
Prpty Acc	95.8	100.9	...	—
Pension Funds				
Cash	96.3	101.4	.	—
Cash Accum	97.2	132.4	+0.1	—
UK Eq Captl	102.1	107.5	-0.3	—
UK Eqty Ac	102.9	108.4	-0.3	—
Fxd Int Cptl	93.7	98.7	+0.2	—
Fxd Int Acc	94.6	99.6	+0.2	—
Indx Lkd Captl	87.8	93.3	..	—
Indx Lkd Acc	88.6	93.3	...	—
Mixed Captl	97.8	103.0		—
Mixed Acc	98.7	103.9	-0.1	—
O'seasEqCp	100.9	106.3	-0.1	—
O'seasEqAc	101.9	107.3	.	—
Prpty Captl	95.0	100.0	-0.1	—
Property Acc	95.8	100.9	...	—

Guardian Royal Exchange
Royal Exchange. EC3. 01-283 7107
GRE Pensions Management Ltd

PensPrpInt	128.0	134.5	...	—
PensPrpAcc	138.2	145.5	...	—
PnsIxLkGtIn	89.5	94.5	..	—
PnsIxLkGtAc	90.1	94.9	...	—
PensDepInt	135.4	142.5		—
PensDepAc	146.3	154.0	...	—

Henderson Administration
26 Finsbury Sq. London EC2. 01-638 5757

High Inc	140.4	147.8	+0.2	—
Gilt Edged	94.3	99.3	+0.3	—
Cap Growth	146.3	154.1	-0.4	—
Technology	166.5	177.2	+1.0	—
NatRes'ces	135.5	142.7	-0.8	—
Spec Sits	189.5	199.5	+0.7	—
N America	222.7	234.5	-0.5	—
Far East	174.3	183.5	+1.5	—
Property	115.4	121.5		—
Managed	183.7	193.4	+0.2	—
Deposit	116.1	122.3		—
Prime Resr	115.6	121.7	...	—
Pension Funds				
UK Equity	104.9	110.5	-0.4	—
Fixed Int	104.6	110.2	+0.4	—
Spec Sits	120.0	126.4	+0.3	—
N America	112.2	115.4	-0.3	—
Far East	119.1	125.4	+1.1	—
Managed	112.4	118.4	-0.1	—
Comm Propy	99.3	104.6		—
Prime Resr	98.9	104.2	...	—
Deposit	99.3	106.6		—

Capital unit prices available on request

London Life Linked Assn Ltd
100 Temple St. Bristol BS1 6EA. 0272-279179

Equity	224.8	231.5	....	—
Property	165.0	169.9	.	—
Fixed Int	156.0	156.7	. .	—
Deposit	140.8	140.8	....	—
Mixed	187.7	191.6	.	—
Index Stk	103.8	104.3	....	—
International	112.1	114.3	...	—

London Life Managed Funds Ltd

Equity(P)	161.0	166.6	....	—
Fixed Int(P)	160.9	162.1	.	—
Property(P)	119.4	123.5	.	—
Deposit(P)	120.1	120.7	.	—
Mixed(P)	148.3	151.9	.	—
IndexStk(P)	110.3	111.1	.	—
Intern(P)	107.6	109.7	....	—

Moneywise Friendly Society
80 Holdenhurst Road. Bournemouth 0202 295678

MoneywiseInv	50.0	—	...	—

Municipal Life Assurance Ltd
99-100 Sandling Road. Maidstone. 0622 679351

Managed Fd	99.0	105.0	. .	—

Premium Life Assurance Co Ltd
Eastchester House Haywards Heath. 0444 458721

Nat Res'ces	119.0	126.0	+1.0	—
Property	139.0	147.0		—
UK Equity	143.0	151.0	+0.1	—
Intl Equity	123.0	130.0	-1.0	—

Prudential Pensions Ltd
Holborn Bars. EC1 2NH. 01-405 9222
Pru-Link Retirement Plan

Managed Fd	141.2	147.1	....	—
Cash Fund	111.5	116.2	—	..

St George Assurance Co Ltd
The Priory. Hitchin. Herts. 0462 57161

Managed Fd	101.6	107.0	....	—
Univ Life Fd	99.8	105.1	....	—

Save & Prosper Group
4 Gt St Helens. London EC3P 3EP. 0708-66966

Gilt Pen Fd	176.2	185.5	-0.3	—
Dep Pen Fd‡	184.1	194.9	.	
Gt Eq Pen Fd	55.6	58.9	+0.3	—

Skandia Life Assurance Co Ltd
Frobisher Hse. Southampton. 0703-334411

Managed	152.1	160.1	+0.5	—
Equity	165.2	160.1	+0.2	—
International	177.9	187.3	+1.1	—
Nth Amer	109.8	115.6	+0.4	—
N European	—	—		—
Pacific	—	—	.	—
Int Recovery	—	—		—
Gilt Plus	135.5	142.6	+0.3	—
Property	127.8	134.5		—
Deposit	130.3	137.2	+0.1	—
Pens Mangd	181.3	190.8	+0.6	—
Pens Equity	195.1	205.4		—
Pens Intnl	213.5	224.7	+1.6	—
Pens N Amer	—	—		—
Pens N Euro	—	—	.	—
Pens Pacific	—	—		—
PensIntRecov	—	—		—
PensGtPls	160.9	167.4	+0.3	—
Pens Prpty	154.9	163.0	+0.2	—
Pens Dep	158.4	166.7	+0.1	—

For prices of Capital Units and Guaranteed Basis Rates please phone 0703 334411.

Target Life Assurance Co Ltd
Target House. Gatehouse Road. Aylesbury Bucks. Aylesbury (0296) 5941

Money Fund	97.0	102.2	.	—
Equity Fund	108.6	114.4	.	—
U.S. Dollar	—	—		5.9
Swiss Franc	—	—	....	1.5
Deutsche Mark	—		..	2.4
Yen	—	—	...	1.8

TSB Life Ltd
PO Box 3. Keens House. Andover. Hants

Managed Fd	101.7	107.1	+0.2	—
Property Fd	96.9	102.1		—
Fixed Int Fd	95.4	100.6	+0.2	—

INSURANCE & OVERSEAS MANAGED FUNDS

Barclays Life Assur. Co. Ltd.—cont.

Income Accum.	113.6	119.6	...	—
Do. Initial	110.9	116.8	...	—
Man Pens. Accum	240.6	253.3	...	—
Do. Initial	200.3	210.9	...	—
Gilt-Edg.Pens. Accum	200.9	211.5	...	—
Do. Initial	160.9	169.4	...	—
Money Pens. Accum	183.7	193.4	...	—
Do. Initial	149.0	156.9	...	—

Black Horse Life Ass. Co. Ltd.
71, Lombard St., EC3 01-623 1288

Black Horse Man.Fd		229.58	...	—
Managed Int. Fd	155.62	163.82	...	—
Property Fd	149.64	157.52	...	—
Fixed Interest Fd.	140.23	147.62	...	—
Cash Fd	134.87	141.97	...	—
Income Fd.	170.44	179.42	...	—
Extra Income Fd	160.24	168.68	...	—
Worldwide Growth Fd.	232.00	244.22	...	—
Balanced Fd	172.36	181.42	...	—
Smlr Co's & Recy. Fd	202.40	213.06	...	—
Int. Technology Fd	266.62	280.66	...	—
Brit Amer & Gen. Fd	169.81	178.75	...	—
Energy Int. Fd	105.75	111.30	...	—
Pacific Basin Fund	134.6	141.48	...	—

British National Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
Harlands Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 414111

Managed	106.5	112.1	-0.3	—
Property	104.7	110.2	-0.4	—
Equity	95.8	100.9	+0.5	—
International	124.5	131.1	-0.8	—
Fixed Interest	96.2	101.2	-0.2	—
Deposit	96.2	101.3	...	—
Managed Pen. Cap	107.7	113.3	-0.3	—
Property Pens. Cap.	104.0	109.5	-0.4	—
Equity Pens. Cap.	92.9	97.8	+0.3	—
Intnl. Pens. Cap.	130.2	137.0	-2.0	—
Fixed Int. Pens. Cap.	94.9	99.9	-0.3	—
Deposit Pens. Cap	96.7	101.8	...	—

G.T. Management Ltd.
16 Finsbury Circus, Lond. EC2M 7DJ 01-628 8131

G.T. Pkn Bond Fund	118.5	124.8	-0.1	—
GT Pln High Yld Fnd	119.3	125.6	-1.3	—
GT Plan Far East Fnd	109.2	115.0	+2.3	—
GT Pln N Am Fund	143.0	150.6	+1.5	—
GT Pln UK&G E Fnd	136.4	143.6	-0.5	—
GT Pln Wrldwde Fnd	133.7	140.8	-0.2	—
GT Pension Bnd Fnd	126.2	132.9	...	—
GT Pen High Yld Fd	135.7	142.9	+2.1	—
GT Pen Far East Fd	132.2	139.2	-3.3	—
GT Pen N Am. Fd	209.5	220.6	+2.1	—
GT Pen UK & G E Fd	157.8	166.3	-0.6	—
GT Pen Wrldwide Fd.	142.9	150.5	+0.3	—

Assicurazioni GENERALI S.p.A.
117, Fenchurch St., EC3M 5DY. 01-488 0733
Intl. Managed Bond 163.2 171.8 ... —

General Portfolio Life Ins. C. Ltd.
Crossbrook St., Cheshunt, Herts Waltham X 31971

Portfolio Fd. Acc		244.8	...	—
Portfolio Fd Inst		204.4	...	—
Portfolio Fd. Cap.		234.8	...	—
Investment A/cs	244.7	257.7	...	—

Growth & Sec. Life Ass. Soc. Ltd.
48, London Fruit Exchange, E1 6EU 01-377 1122

Flexible Finance		1,353	...	—
Landbank Secs		65.87	...	—
Landbank Secs Acc.	183.7	188.5	...	—
G. & S. Super Fd.		£31.2814	...	—

Guardian Royal Exchange
Royal Exchange, E.C.3. 01-283 7101

Guardian Assurance
Property Bonds 301.7 314.2 ... —

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

NOTES

FT LONDON SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

Five to Fifteen Years

Over Fifteen Years

Undated

Index-Linked

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES

CORPORATION LOANS

Interest Due		Stock	Price £	Last xd	Yield Int.	Yield Red.
15N	15M	Liverpool 9¾pc '80-84	99⅛	15.4	9.87	11.33
1Ja.A.J.O.		D. 3½pc Irred.	28¼xd	1.6	12.75	—
15M	15N	Lon. Corp. 13¼pc '83	100⅞	15.4	13.18	10.56
1A	1O	Do. 9¼pc '84-85	94⅞	1.3	9.76	12.06
15J	15J	LCC 5½pc '82-84	95½	15.6	5.77	10.85
11O	11J	Do. 5½pc '85-87	81½	11.5	6.75	11.60
10Ja	10J	Do 6¾pc '88-90	76¼	10.6	8.92	12.01
1M.J.S.D.		Do. 3pc '20 Aft.	24¼xd	3.5	12.46	—
15J	15D	Sunderland 12¼pc 1984	101⅛	13.5	12.11	11.22

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

Interest Due		Stock	Price £	Last xd	Yield Int.	Yield Red.
1J	1D	Aust. 6pc 1981-83	99¼xd	29.4	6.08	9.78
1Ja	1J	N.Z. 7¼pc 1988-92	77xd	1.6	9.51	11.59
15D	15J	Do. 7½pc '83-86	90½xd	16.5	8.38	11.89
—		S. Rhod. 2½pc Non-Ass.	181	—	—	—
10Mar	10Sept	Do. 3½pc 80-85 Assd.	81	10.2	—	—
7F	7A	Do. 4½pc 87-92 Assd.	55	7.1	—	—
15O	15A	Zimbabwe Ann (£100pa)	390	15.3	—	14.04

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

Interest Due		Stock	Price £	Last xd	Yield Int.	Yield Red.
1Ja	1J	Agric. Mt. 5pc '59-89	72½xd	1.6	6.95	11.69
1M	1S	Met. Wtr. 3pc 'B'	33	1.2	9.04	11.82

LOANS—Continued

Financial

Interest Due		Stock	Price £	Last xd	Yield Int.	Yield Red.
20J	20D	Inv in Ind 14pc 1983	101	31.5	13.85	10.72
31M	30N	Do 6¼pcDb '81-84	94½xd	31.5	6.61	11.10
11Ja	11J	Do. 10½pc Uns.Ln. '86	96½	11.7	11.02	12.88
11Ja	11J	Do. 11pc Uns.Ln. '88	96½	11.7	11.52	12.05
11Ja	11J	Do. 11¾pc Uns.Ln. '90	99	11.7	12.01	12.25
14Mr.	14S	Do. 12¾pc Un. Ln. 1992	98¼xd	1.8	12.72	12.85
30J	31D	Do. 7¼pc A Deb '89-92	75	30.6	9.89	11.89
31M	30S	Do. 7¾pcADeb. '91-94	75	31.3	10.16	11.90
31M	30S	Do. 9pc 'A' '91-94	85	31.3	11.08	12.15
31A	28F	Do. 8¾pcLn. '92-97	81¼	28.2	10.99	11.55

Building Societies

Interest Due		Stock	Price £	Last xd	Yield Int.	Yield Red.
9Feb	15Aug	N'wide 11⅞pc 15.8.83	100	18.7	—	—
23Feb	30Aug	Do. 11¼pc 30.8.83	100	24.1	—	—
27 Mar	3 Oct	Do. 11⅛pc 3.10.83	100	25.2	11.98	10.56
—		Do. 9⅞pc 31.10.83	99¾	28.3	9.96	10.76
—		Do. 9⅞pc 28.11.83	99¾xd	22.5	9.90	10.39
—		Do. 11¼pc 19.12.83	100¼xd	16.5	11.24	10.62
—		Do. 11⅞pc 23.1.84	100½	17.6	11.82	10.48
—		Do. 11⅞pc 13.2.84	100½	4.7	11.82	10.75
—		Do. 11¼pc 19/3/84	100	—	11.25	11.30
—		Do. 11¼pc 9/4/84	99⅞	—	11.26	11.54
—		Do 10¾% 30/4/84	99⅞	—	10.76	11.65
—		Do 10⅞% 29/5/84	99⅞	—	10.92	11.36

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

AMERICANS

CANADIANS

Dividends Paid	Stock	Price	Last xd	Div.	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
	♥Greenwich Res Inc.	130p	—	—	—	—
J.Ap.Jy O.	♥Gulf Can. ǁ	972p	—	44c	—	2.4
Ap.Jy O.Ja.	♥Hawker Sid Can ǁ	937p	15.11	96c	—	5.5
F.My.Au.N.	♥Hollinger $5	13⅝	26.7	s$2.20	—	8.7
Mr.Jn.Sp.Dc.	Hudson's Bay ǁ	13⅝	11.7	60c	—	2.4
Mr.Je.S.D.	♥Imperial Oil ǁ	20⅝	26.11	$1.40	—	3.8
Jan.Ag.J.O.	Inco ǁ	10xd	3.5	$US20c	—	1.3
F.My.Au.N.	♥Intl Nat Gas $1	815p	30.10	$1.10	—	7.3
Mr.Je.S.D.	Massey Ferg. ǁ	321p	10.77	B—	—	—
June Dec	♥Rio Algom	29⅛	5.11	$1.50	—	2.8
M Je.S.D.	Royal Bk. Can. $1	17¼xd	25.1	$2.00	—	6.3
SeDeMrJu	Seagram Co. C$1	20¼xd	31.5	US$2.04	—	6.7
—	♥Talcorp	75p	—	—	—	—
—	♥Do pref $3	140p	—	10%	—	11.6
F.MyAuN.	Tor. Dom. Bk. ǁ	916pxd	29.6	$2.16	—	12.7
J.Ap.Jy.O.	♥Trans Can Pipe	14⅛	11.2	$1.40	—	5.3

BANKS, H.P. & LEASING

Dividends Paid		Stock	Price	Last xd	Div Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's	P/E
Jan.	July	ANZ $A1	265	6.6	Q28c	3.1	6.0	5.3
Feb.	Aug.	Alexanders D. £1	245	21.2	20.0	—	11.7	—
May	Aug.	Algemene Fl.100	£85⅝	17.8	vQ26%	1.8	7.4	7.6
Dec.	June	Allied Irish	150	6.6	Q49%	4.2	7.0	4.7
July		Arbuthnot (H.) 50p	90	18.7	3.5	—	5.6	—
July	Jan	Bk. Ireland £1	270	23.5	bzQ24.9	—	7.9	—
May	Nov.	Bank Leumi	1½	18.5	—	—	—	—
Aug.	Feb	Bk.Leumi (UK)£1.	150	7.3	10.15	—	9.9	—
Nov.	May	Bank Scotland £1	525	25.4	24.0	3.6	6.5	4.7
Apr.	Oct.	Barclays £1	500	21.3	†22.0	3.6	6.4	4.9

BANKS—Continued

Hire Purchase, Leasing, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS—Cont.

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICALS—Continued

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

Dividends Paid		Stock	Price	Last xd	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Grs	P/E
Jan	Oct	Justlar	490	4.7	12.75	2.2	3.7	14.7
Aug	Dec	Inter City 20p	66	11.79				
		Harrap Ind 5p 20p	105	21.3	u4.0	1.8	3.3	25.7
Feb	Aug	Jardines Bourne	200	31.12	5.0	♦	3.6	♦
August		James Inds. 10p	99	18.7	1.75	1.5	4.6	21.3
Nov	June	Jacksons of HH 5p	125	25.4	080r	2.1	6.2	19.9
July	Jan	Jenks & Cattell	38	9.5	1.06	0.5	4.0	31.4
Oct	Apr	Johnson Cleaners	325	11.4	10.8	2.8	4.7	9.1
Feb	Aug	Johnson Matthey £1	275	20.6	10.0	2.0	4.8	23
Jan	July	Johnston Grp 10p	380	21.5	6.0	5.0	2.3	12.7
Oct	June	Jourdan (T.) 10p	180xd	1.8	5.6	1.2	8.0	13.8
May	Dec	Kalamazoo 10p	63	25.4	2.5	0.9	5.7	28.2
Sept		Kean & Scott Hldgs	52	6.60	M1.0		2.0	
Mar	May	Keep Trust 5p	11½	20.9	0.15		0.7	
Feb	July	Kelsey Inds.	188	6.6	8.0	1.7	6.1	12.9
Nov	April	Kershaw (A.) 5p	340	21.2	‡15.0	0.6	‡	28.5
Jan	Aug	Kleen-E-Ze Hldgs	58	18.7	3.0	♦	7.4	♦
Jan	Aug	L.C.P. Hldgs.	96	20.6	3.6	1.2	5.4	21.6
Jan	July	L.D.H. Group	27	2.6				
Oct	April	L.R.C. Int. 10p	130xd	1.8	3.75	♦	3.6	♦
July	Dec	Lamont Hldgs. 10p	28	6.6	1.3	1.0	6.6	11.0
Dec	May	Lawtex	37	11.81				
Mar	Oct	Lep Group 10p	435	4.7	17.5	0.3	5.7	60.2
Oct	July	Lindsbell 10p	34	9.5	d1.0		4.2	
Jan	Oct	Lon. & Liv. 10p	61	21.5	h2.75	3.5	6.4	5.5
Jan	Sept	London & Mid. Ind.	131	11.12	7.75	♦	8.4	♦
Jul	Dec	Lon. & Nthn. Grp	47	6.6	F4.7	♦	6.7	13.7
		♦Lon. Pru. Hldgs	31					15.5
Jan	June	Long Hambly 10p	9½	12.79	♦8			
Mar	Oct	Longton Inds.	54	4.9	3.0		2.7	
		Low & Bonar 50p	108	25.4	5.0	0.6	6.6	46.9

INSURANCES

LEISURE

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

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Rubbers, Palm Oil

Teas

MINES

Central Rand

Eastern Rand

Far West Rand

O.F.S.

Finance

Diamond and Platinum

MINES—Continued

Central African

Dividends Paid		Stock	Price	Last xd	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Grs
Nov	May	Falcon Rh 50c	220	1.5	070r	4.2	24.9
Nov	May	Wankie Col. Z$1	21	25.4	05r	0.7	14.0
		Zam Cpr SBD 24	19	4.80			

Australians

Dividends Paid		Stock	Price	Last xd	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Grs
		♥ACM 20c	17				
		Allstate Explo NL	33				
		Balmoral Resources	16½				
		♥Black Hill Mins	44				
		♥Bond Corp	56		g010c	2.3	11.0
Nov	Apr	♥Bougainville 1 Kina	170	11.3	Q3.42c	1.2	1.2
May	Nov	♥CRA 50c	333	11.4	tQ3c		0.5
		♥Carr Boyd 20c	83				
		♥Central Pacific	31				
		♥Crusader Oil	183				
		♥Cultus Pac NL	10½				
		♥Eagle Corp 10c	15				

Tins

Miscellaneous

NOTES

REGIONAL AND IRISH STOCKS

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 14

This service is available to every Company dealt in on Stock Exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of £700 per annum for each security

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Joker in the pack

BY COLIN MILLHAM

It was hard to find anyone very happy about the strength of the dollar last week, but one of the only good features seemed to be the lack of demand for the D-mark, which kept pressure off the European Monetary System. The D-mark and Dutch guilder were at their lowest levels for nearly 10 years, while other currencies, such as the French franc, Belgian franc and Italian lira hit record lows, despite the announcement of concerted action by central banks to stem the dramatic advance of the dollar.

There was some suggestion that the various authorities in Japan, Germany and other major countries, were rather half-hearted in their intervention to push down the U.S. unit, but when demand for the dollar was at its height the central banks probably found significant intervention an impossible task.

The U.S. currency began the week on a very firm note, after another large rise in M1 money supply, but then the threat of central bank intervention led to a pause for breath, when the market decided whether the central banks were more of a worry than the prospect of higher U.S. interest rates as a result of the large Budget deficit and above target money supply. It quickly became clear that the latter factor held sway, and the dollar set off once again on an upward path, only faltering on Friday when the prospect of confusing money supply statistics left the market puzzled.

At the close on Friday it was generally felt that M1 would show another large weekly rise, of perhaps $2bn to $3bn, but M2 and M3 would show signs of better control. At the same time the recent sharp rise in M1 growth is expected to ease in the next few weeks, and if this is the case then the dollar may have reached its highest level for the time being.

But the problem is that nobody really knows where the dollar will go from now on, because the U.S. currency has become the joker in the pack. But at least it stops the Europeans from arguing about who is to blame for their various problems. They can all point the finger at Washington at the moment.

FORWARD RATES AGAINST STERLING

	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Dollar	1.4835	1.4843	1.4860	1.4881	1.4916
D-Mark	4.0375	4.0238	3.9983	3.9571	3.8867
French Franc	12.14	12.1825	12.3025	12.5196	12.8895
Swiss Franc	3.2425	3.2288	3.20	3.1540	3.0705
Japanese yen	366.25	365.35	363.35	359.975	353.30

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU August 12	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc ...	44.9008	45.6775	+1.73	+0.98	±1.5447
Danish Krone ...	8.14104	8.20957	+0.84	+0.09	±1.6425
German D-Mark	2.24184	2.28044	+1.72	+0.97	±1.0642
French Franc ...	6.87456	6.86082	−0.20	−0.95	±1.4052
Dutch Guilder ...	2.52595	2.55346	+1.09	+0.34	±1.4964
Irish Punt	0.72569	0.722306	−0.47	−1.22	±1.6699
Italian Lira	1403.49	1352.09	−3.66	−3.66	±4.1505

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

BANK OF ENGLAND TREASURY BILL TENDER

	Aug. 12	Aug 5.		Aug. 12	Aug.5
Bills on offer........	£100m	—	Top accepted rate of discount.	—	—
Total of applications......	£300m	—	Average rate of discount	9.3775%	—
Total allocated....	£100m	—	Average yield.......	—	—
Minimum accepted bid....	£97.655	—	Amount on offer at next tender...	£100m	—
Allotment at minimum level...	8%	—			

OTHER CURRENCIES

Aug. 12	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso...	16.48-16.53	10.464-10.484	Austria............	28.30-28.60
Australia Dollar..	1.6990-1.7010	1.1465-1.1475	Belgium............	80.60-81.40
Brazil Cruzeiro ..	943.98-949.36	637.83-641.02	Denmark..........	14.47-14.61
Finland Markka..	8.5560-8.5795	5.7725-5.7775	France..............	12.12-12.24
Greek Drachma..	132.58-133.18	89.40-89.80	Germany...........	4.01 1/4-4.05 3/4
Hong Kong Dollar	11.06 1/2-11.08 1/2	7.4670-7.4720	Italy.................	2365-2395
Iran Rial..........	130.80*	88.15*	Japan................	365-370
Kuwait Dinar (KD)	0.4346-0.4355	0.2932-0.2933	Netherlands......	4.50 1/4-4.54 1/4
Luxembourg Fr..	80.90-81.00	54.56-54.58	Norway.............	11.14-11.24
Malaysia Dollar..	3.5078-3.5175	2.3665-2.3685	Portugal............	179-189
New Zealand Dlr.	2.2930-2.3020	1.5460-1.5475	Spain................	217-226 1/2
Saudi Arab. Riyal	5.1450-5.1510	3.4695-3.4710	Sweden.............	11.74-11.84
Singapore Dollar	3.19-3.20	2.1535-2.1555	Switzerland.......	3.23-3.26
Sth. African Rand	1.6650-1.6685	1.1225-1.1235	United States.....	1.47-1.49
U.A.E. Dirham....	5.4455-5.4510	3.6720-3.6730	Yugoslavia........	156-175

*Selling rates.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Aug. 12	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Change %
Sterling..................	85.1	−35.6
U.S. dollar...............	130.4	+17.0
Canadian dollar.......	92.9	−16.8
Austrian schilling.....	113.5	+28.0
Belgian franc...........	91.0	− 3.8
Danish kroner..........	78.9	−14.2
Deutsche mark.........	124.7	+54.0
Swiss franc.............	151.2	+112.2
Guilder....................	114.6	+24.7
French franc............	67.3	−24.8
Lira........................	50.3	−60.0
Yen........................	146.4	+38.5

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December 1971. Bank of England Index (base average 1975=100).

CURRENCY RATES

AUG. 12	Bank rate %	Special Drawing Rights	European Currency Unit
Sterling	—	0.704075	0.565347
U.S. $	8 1/2	1.04154	0.836431
Canadian $	9.68	*	1.03383
Austria Sch	3 3/4	19.9788	16.0427
Belgian F	9	56.9045	45.6775
Danish Kr	7 1/2	10.2279	8.20957
D mark	4	2.84111	2.28044
Guilder	4 1/2	3.18086	2.55346
French F...........	9 1/2	8.54792	6.86082
Lira	17	1683.39	1352.09
Yen	5 1/2	257.000	206.765
Norwgn Kr	9	7.87092	6.31589
Spanish Pta	—	160.000	128.559
Swedish Kr	8 1/2	8.28962	6.65715
Swiss Fr	4	2.28014	1.83245
Greek Dr'ch	20 1/2	93.5824	75.1115

* C$/SDR rate for Aug 11 + 1.28843

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Aug 12	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.4730-1.4860	1.4830-1.4840	0.05-0.10c dis	−0.61	0.22-0.27dis	−0.66
Canada	1.8210-1.8350	1.8330-1.8340	0.10c pm-par	0.33	0.18-0.08pm	0.23
Nethlnd.	4.50-4.54	4.51 1/2-4.52 1/2	1/2-1 1/2c pm	3.65	4 1/2-4pm	3.76
Belgium	80.50-81.20	80.90-81.00	13-3c pm	1.18	27-17pm	1.09
Denmark	14.47-14.58	14.53 1/4-14.54 1/4	2 1/2-1 1/4ore pm	1.55	1 1/4pm-par	0.19
Ireland	1.2760-1.2840	1.2775-1.2785	0.33-0.38p dis	−3.33	0.80-0.90dis	−2.66
W. Ger.	4.02-4.05 1/2	4.03 1/4-4.04 1/4	1 1/2-1 1/4pf pm	4.09	4 1/2-3 7/8pm	4.09
Portugal	183.00-184.75	184.25-184.75	140-435c dis	−18.70	460-1160dis	−17.56
Spain	227.00-228.30	227.50-227.70	330-490c dis	−21.62	1220-1530dis	−24.16
Italy	2,380-2,401	2,395 1/2-2,397 1/2	14 1/4-16 3/4lire dis	−7.89	45 1/2-49 1/2dis	−7.93
Norway	11.13-11.22	11.19-11.20	3-3 1/2ore dis	−3.42	8 1/2-9 1/2dis	−3.21
France	12.13-12.20	12.13 1/2-12.14 1/2	3 3/4-4 3/4c dis	−4.20	15 1/4-17 1/4dis	−5.35
Sweden	11.72-11.81	11.79-11.80	1 5/8-2 1/4ore dis	−1.87	3 1/4-4 1/4dis	−1.27
Japan	364-367	365 1/4-366 1/4	1.00-0.80y pm	2.96	3.00-2.80pm	3.17
Austria	28.25-28.50	28.45-28.50	11 1/2-9 1/2gro pm	4.40	21-26 1/2pm	4.01
Switz.	3.22 1/2-3.25 1/2	3.23 1/4-3.24 1/4	1 1/2-1 1/4c pm	5.09	4 1/2-4pm	5.24

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 81.20-81.30.
Six-month forard dollar 0.43-0.48c dis. 12-month 0.75-0.85c dis.

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Aug 12	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
UK†	1.4730-1.4860	1.4830-1.4840	0.05-0.10c dis	−0.61	0.22-0.27dis	−0.66
Ireland†	1.1550-1.1600	1.1590-1.1600	0.38-0.33c pm	3.68	0.90-0.80pm	2.94
Canada	1.2355-1.2365	1.2365-1.2360	0.11-0.07c pm	0.87	0.30-0.26pm	0.91
Nethlnd.	3.0450-3.0570	3.0450-3.0470	1.12-1.02c pm	4.21	3.37-3.27pm	4.35
Belgium	54.56-54.72	54.56-54.58	8-7c pm	1.65	24 1/2-22pm	1.70
Denmark	9.8050-9.8250	9.8100-9.8150	2 1/4-1 3/4ore pm	2.45	3 1/2-3pm	1.32
W. Ger.	2.7200-2.7340	2.7200-2.7210	1.12-1.07pf pm	4.82	3.35-3.30pm	4.88
Portugal	124.15-124.55	124.25-124.50	90-285c dis	−18.09	290-755dis	−16.80
Spain	153.40-154.05	153.40-153.60	225-325c dis	−21.50	825-1025dis	−24.10
Italy	1,615-1,619	1,615 1/2-1,616 1/2	9 1/2-10lire dis	−7.23	29-30dis	−7.30
Norway	7.5450-7.5665	7.5500-7.5550	1.70-2.00ore dis	−2.94	4.50-4.80dis	−3.46
France	8.1825-8.2300	8.1825-8.1875	2.40-2.60c dis	−3.65	9.40-9.80dis	−4.68
Sweden	7.9500-7.9675	7.9500-7.9550	0.90-1.10ore dis	−1.51	0.95-1.15dis	−0.53
Japan	246.60-147.60	246.75-246.85	0.78-0.73y pm	3.66	2.38-2.30pm	3.78
Austria	19.14-19.19 1/2	19.14-19.15	8.40-7.60gro pm	5.01	24.25-21.75pm	4.80
Switz.	2.1820-2.1970	2.1835-2.1845	1.07-1.02c pm	5.73	3.26-3.21pm	5.91

† UK and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar and not to the individual currency.
Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 54.715-54.815.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Aug. 12	Pound St'rling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1	1.484	4.038	366.3	12.14	3.243	4.520	2397.	1.834	80.95
U.S. Dollar	0.674	1.	2.722	246.9	8.183	2.186	3.047	1615.	1.236	54.57
Deutschmark	0.248	0.367	1.	90.71	3.007	0.803	1.120	593.6	0.454	20.05
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.730	4.051	11.02	1000.	33.15	8.853	12.34	6543.	5.006	221.0
French Franc 10	0.824	1.222	3.326	301.7	10.	2.671	3.723	1974.	1.510	66.68
Swiss Franc	0.308	0.458	1.245	113.0	3.744	1.	1.394	739.1	0.565	24.97
Dutch Guilder	0.221	0.328	0.893	81.03	2.686	0.717	1.	530.2	0.405	17.91
Italian Lira 1,000	0.417	0.619	1.685	152.8	5.066	1.353	1.886	1000.	0.766	33.78
Canadian Dollar	0.545	0.809	2.202	199.8	6.621	1.768	2.465	1307.	1.	44.15
Belgian Franc 100	1.235	1.833	4.988	452.4	15.00	4.006	5.584	2960.	2.265	100.

FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON

THREE-MONTH EURODOLLAR
$1m points of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	89.40	89.45	89.39	89.38
Dec	88.97	89.01	88.95	88.90
March	88.72	88.73	88.71	88.65
June	88.52	88.54	88.52	88.44
Sept	88.43	—	—	88.42

Volume 1,587 (2,392).
Previous day's open int. 6,534 (6,662).

THREE-MONTH STERLING DEPOSIT
£250,000 points of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	89.92	89.94	89.88	89.87
Dec	89.48	89.51	89.48	89.45
March	89.14	89.14	89.09	89.08
June	88.92	—	—	88.86
Sept	88.92	—	—	88.86

Volume 556 (919)
Previous day's open int. 5,369 (5,397).

20-YEAR 12% NOTIONAL GILT
£50,000 32nds of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	101-28	101-28	101-05	100-28
Dec	103-18	103-18	103-00	102-19
March	103-07	—	—	102-06
June	102-28	—	—	101-25
Sept	102-18	—	—	101-12

Volume 2,163 (2,781).
Previous day's open int. 5,563 (5,584).
Basis quote (clean cash price of 15 1/2% Treasury 1998 less equivalent price of near futures contract) −4 to 4 (32nd's).

STERLING £25,000 $ per £

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	1.4835	1.4840	1.4835	1.4795
Dec	1.4862	—	—	1.4830
March	1.4888	—	—	1.4855

Volume 798 (889).
Previous day's open int. 1,942 (1,911).

DEUTSCHE MARKS DM125,000 $ per DM

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	0.3682	0.3682	0.3678	0.3673
Dec	0.3726	—	—	0.3714
March	0.3766	—	—	0.3754

Volume 98 (209).
Previous day's open int. 575 (542).

SWISS FRANCS SwFr 125,000
$ per SwFr

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	0.4588	0.4593	0.4586	0.4586
Dec	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—

Volume 24 (81).
Previous day's open int. 229 (236).

JAPANESE YEN Y12.5m $ per Y100

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	0.4054	0.4062	0.4050	0.4076
Dec	0.4094	—	—	0.4120
March	—	—	—	—

Volume 55 (154).
Previous day's open int. 274 (279).

CHICAGO

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (CBT) 8%
$100,000 32nd of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	70-07	70-11	69-23	69-16
Dec	69-20	69-25	69-05	68-29
March	69-03	69-07	68-22	68-13
June	68-22	68-26	68-09	68-00
Sept	68-11	68-13	67-31	67-21
Dec	68-01	68-03	67-22	67-12
March	67-25	67-27	67-14	67-04
June	67-19	67-21	67-08	66-30
Sept	—	—	—	—
Dec	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—

U.S. TREASURY BILLS (IMM)
$1m points of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	90.33	90.38	90.30	90.30
Dec	89.92	89.96	89.89	89.86
March	89.67	89.69	89.64	89.59
June	89.49	89.52	89.47	89.41
Sept	89.34	89.35	89.33	89.24
Dec	89.20	89.22	89.17	89.12
March	89.07	89.07	89.04	88.96
June	88.93	88.93	88.90	88.82

CERT. DEPOSIT (IMM)
$1m points of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	89.70	89.75	89.68	89.64
Dec	89.17	89.20	89.16	89.09
June	88.63	88.65	88.60	88.54

THREE-MONTH EURODOLAR (IMM)
$1m points of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	89.17	89.19	89.12	89.09
Dec	88.72	88.74	88.70	88.63
Feb	—	—	—	—
March	88.41	88.44	88.40	88.32
June	88.21	88.23	88.19	88.12

STERLING (IMM) $s per £

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	1.4875	1.4860	1.4800	1.4790
Dec	1.4875	1.4890	1.4825	1.4820
March	1.4905	1.4925	1.4875	[illegible]
June	1.4880	1.4950	1.4850	1.4880
Sept	—	—	—	—
Dec	—	—	—	—

GNMA (CBT) 8% $100,000
32nd of 100%

	Close	High	Low	Prev
Sept	68-28	69-10	68-02	68-01
Dec	67-20	67-30	66-28	66-25
March	66-21	66-27	65-30	65-27
June	66-00	66-08	65-09	65-06
Sept	65-16	65-20	65-08	64-22
Dec	65-03	65-06	64-14	64-09
March	—	—	—	—
June	64-15	64-15	64-06	63-21
Sept	—	—	—	—
Dec	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—

WEEKLY CHANGE IN WORLD INTEREST RATES

	Aug. 12	change		Aug. 12	change
LONDON			**NEW YORK**		
Base rates	9 1/2	Unch'd	Prime rates	11	+1/4
7 day Interbank	9 1/16	+1/2	Federal funds	9 5/8	−1/8
3 mth Interbank	9 13/16	−1/32	3 mth Treasury Bills	9.48	+0.04
Treasury Bill Tender	9.3775	−0.0214	6 Mth. Treasury Bills	9.65	+0.05
Band 1 Bills	9 5/8	Unch'd	3 Mth. C D	—	—
Band 2 Bills	9 1/2	Unch'd	**FRANKFURT**		
Band 3 Bills	9 7/16	Unch'd	Lombard	5.00	Unch'd
3 Mth. Treasury Bills	9 13/32	−1/8	One Mth. Interbank	5.05	−0.40
1 Mth. Bank Bills	9 5/8	−1/32	Three month	5.75	+0.05
3 Mth. Bank Bills	9 19/32	+1/32	**PARIS**		
TOKYO			Intervention Rate	12.25	Unch'd
One month Bills	6.65625	Unch'd	One Mth. Interbank	12.875	+0.5625
Three month Bills	6.71875	Unch'd	Three month	12.5625	+0.1250
BRUSSELS			**MILAN**		
One month	8.6875	—	One month	17.5	—
Three month	9.125	—	Three month	17.625	—
AMSTERDAM			**DUBLIN**		
One month	6 3/16	+1/8	One month	—	—
Three month	6 1/4	+1/16	Three month	—	—

London—band 1 bills mature in up to 14 days, band 2 bills 15 to 33 days, and band 3 bills 34 to 63 days. Rates quoted represent Bank of England buying or selling rates with the money market. In other centres rates are generally deposit rates in the domestic money market and their respective changes during the week.

MONEY MARKETS

Europe fights higher interest rates

U.S. influence on European interest rates was fairly obvious last week, although it could be said that central banks were in no mood to be pushed into increasing domestic rates because of the weakness of their respective currencies against the dollar.

In London the financial markets seemed so relieved with much better UK M3 money supply and Central Government borrowing figures that fears about higher rates temporarily faded, but were revived later in the week when the discount houses became keen sellers of longer dated bills. This resulted in the Bank of England buying some band 4 bills at an increased rate of 9 13/32 per cent.

Despite this, there is no indication that the authorities would be prepared to accept higher interest rates as the price for defending sterling, which is very firm against Continental currencies anyway, and one of the very few above its lowest level of the year against the dollar.

The Bundesbank may have been tempted to raise its key lending rates on Thursday, but the differential between Frankfurt and New York is too great to be bridged by a slight adjustment to the discount and Lombard rates. At the same time fragile German economic growth may be left stillborn by any such move, and Germany's EMS partners might well turn their wrath away from Washington and towards Bonn.

The Belgian National Bank is keen to cut rates as soon as possible, but is obviously restrained by the weakness of its currency, and the same could be said for the Bank of France and Bank of Italy, but here high inflation is another constraining factor.

Only the Dutch felt confident enough to do much about reducing the level of domestic interest rates last week. In another move to restrain the recent upward trend the Dutch central bank injectd Fl 1.98bn into the money market through a special advance at a rate of 5 3/4 per cent.

At the end of last week Amsterdam call money was above 6 per cent, but fell below 5 per cent on Friday.

The Bundesbank also provided funds for the Frankfurt money market, to replace a securities repurchase agreement expiring on Monday, but at a fairly punitive rate of 5.3 per cent, compared with the Lombard level of 5 per cent.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Aug. 12 1983	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount Market Deposits	Treasury Bills ♦	Eligible Bank Bills ♦	Fine Trade Bills ♦
Overnight........	—	8 11	—	—	—	8 3/4-9	8 3/4-9 1/2	—	—	—
2 days notice .	—	—	9 1/8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or 7 days notice...	—	8 3/4-9 1/8	9 1/4	—	—	9 1/4-9 3/8 / 9 1/8-9 1/4	8 3/4	—	—	—
One month	9 3/8-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 7/16	9 3/8	10 9 3/4	9 1/4	9 5/8	9 1/4	9 5/16	9 3/8-9 7/16	9 1/2
Two months	9 1/2-9 3/8	9 9/16-9 11/16	9 5/8	10 1/8-9 7/8	9 5/8	10	9 3/8	9 7/16	9 9/16	10 1/16
Three months..	9 7/8-9 3/4	9 3/4-10	9 7/8	10 3/8-10	10	—	9 1/2	9 13/32-9 1/2	9 19/32	10 1/4
Six months......	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 3/8	10 5/8-10	10 7/16	—	—	—	10	10 9/32
Nine months ...	10 1/2-10 7/16	10 5/8-10 9/16	10 5/8	11-10 5/8	10 5/8	—	—	—	—	—
One year	10 1/2-10 3/8	10 3/4-10 7/8	10 3/4	11-10 5/8	10 7/8	—	—	—	—	—
Two years........	—	—	11 1/4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ECGD Fixed Rate Export Scheme IV. Average Rate for interest period July 6 to August 2 1983 (inclusive) 9.989 per cent.

Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days fixed. Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 11 1/2 per cent; four years 11 3/4 per cent; five years 11 7/8 per cent. ♦ Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rate for four months bank bills 9 23/32 per cent; four months trade bills 10 11/32 per cent.

Approximate selling rate for one month Treasury bills 9 7/32 per cent; two-months 9 11/32 per cent and three months 9 11/32 per cent. Approximate selling rate for one month bank 9 7/32 per cent; two months 9 11/32 per cent and three months 9 11/32 per cent; trade bills 9 31/32 per cent; two months 9 15/16 per cent and three months 9 27/32 per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 10 per cent from August 1 1983. London and Scottish Clearing Bank Rates for lending 9 1/2 per cent. London Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 6 per cent.

Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 9.3775 per cent. Certificates of Tax Deposit (Series 6). Deposits of £100,000 and over held under one month 9 1/2 per cent; one-three months 9 3/4 per cent; three-six months 10 1/4 per cent; six-12 months 10 1/2 per cent. Under £100,000 9 1/2 per cent from July 20. Deposits held under Series 4-5 9 3/4 per cent. The rates for all deposits withdrawn for cash 8 per cent.

INTEREST RATES

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES
(Market closing rates)

Aug. 12	Short term	7 days notice	Month	Three Months	Six Months	One Year
Sterling..........	9 9 1/4	9 9 1/4	9 3/8 9 1/2	9 7/8 9 13/16	10 3/8-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 5/8
U.S. Dollar.......	9 1/2 9 3/4	9 5/8-9 7/8	9 13/16 10 1/16	9 15/16-9 13/16	10 7/8 11 1/8	11 3/8 11 5/8
Can. Dollar.......	8 3/4 9 1/2	8 1/4-9	8 15/16-9 1/16	9 1/4-9 3/4	10 1/8 10 3/8	10 3/8 10 5/8
D. Guilder........	5 1/2 5 5/8	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 7/8 6	6 1/4 6 3/8	6 3/8-6 5/8	6 5/8 6 3/4
S. Franc...........	1 1/4-1 1/2	2 2 1/4	4 3/8-4 5/8	4 3/8-4 1/2	4 7/16-4 11/16	4 5/8-5 1/8
Deutschm'rk......	5 5 1/8	5 1/8 5 1/4	5 3/16-5 5/16	5 5/8-5 3/4	6 1/8 6 1/4	6 1/2-6 5/8
French Franc.....	12 1/2-12 3/4	12 1/2-12 3/4	13 1/8-13 5/8	15 1/4-15 1/2	16 5/8-16 7/8	17 1/4 17 1/2
Italian Lira	15-15 1/2	15 7/8-17 1/2	16 5/8-17 1/4	17 1/2 18	18 1/2-19	19 1/2 20 1/2
Belg. Franc.. Conv..........	7 1/2-8 1/2	8 9	8 1/4 8 3/4	8 3/4 9 1/4	9 1/2-10	10-10 1/2
Fin..................	7 3/4 8 1/4	8 9	8 5/8 8 7/8	9 1/8 9 3/8	9 5/8 9 7/8	9 7/8 10 1/8
Yen.................	6 3/8 6 1/2	6 1/4-6 1/2	6 7/16-6 9/16	6 5/8-6 3/4	6 5/8 6 3/4	6 11/16-6 15/16
D. Krone...........	4 3/8 5 1/8	5 3/8 5 7/8	7 3/4 8 1/4	9 5/8-10 1/8	10 1/4 10 3/4	11-11 1/2
Asia $ (Sing.)...	9 3/4-9 7/8	9 13/16-9 15/16	10-10 1/8	10 5/16-10 7/16	10 13/16-11 1/16	11 1/4-11 3/8

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING
(11.00 a.m. AUGUST 12)

3 month U.S. dollars		6 month U.S. dollars	
bid 10 7/16	offer 10 9/16	bid 10 7/8	offer 11

The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for $10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

MONEY RATES

NEW YORK

Prime rate	11
Fed funds (lunch-time)	9 5/8
Treasury bills (13-week	9.48
Treasury bills (26-week)	9.65

GERMANY

Lombard	5.0
Overnight rate	5.05
One month	5.50
Three months	5.75
Six months	6.275

FRANCE

Intervention rate	12.25
Overnight rate	12.875
One month	12.5625
Three months	12.5625
Six months	12.625

JAPAN

Discount rate	5.5
Call (unconditional)	6.65625
Bill discount (3-month)	6.71875

SWITZERLAND

Discount rate	4
Overnight rate	2-3
One month	4 1/8-4 1/4
Three months	4 5/16-4 11/16

NETHERLANDS

Discount rate	4 1/2
Overnight rate	4 1/4-5 1/4
One month	5 1/2-6
Three months	6 3/16-6 1/4
Six months	6 7/16-6 9/16

$ CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

One month	9.85-9.95
Three months	10.20-10.30
Six months	10.70-10.80
One year	11.05-11.15

LONG TERM EURO $

Two years	12-12 1/4
Three years	12 1/8-12 3/8
Four years	12 3/8-12 5/8
Five years	12 5/8-12 7/8

SDR LINKED DEPOSITS

One month	8 13/16-9 1/16
Three months	9 7/16-9 11/16
Six months	9 7/8-10 1/8
One year	10 1/4-10 1/2

ECU LINKED DEPOSITS

One month	9 1/2-9 7/8
Three months	9 1/4-9 3/4
Six months	9 7/8-10 1/4
One year	10 1/8-10 1/2

COMPANY NOTICES

ITO-YOKADO CO., LTD.
(CDRs)

Referring to the advertisement of 21st February, 1983 the undersigned announces that the new shares from 10% bonus have been received. As from June 20th, 1983 the new CDRs Ito-Yokado Co. Ltd. each repr. 100 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. cum.div.cp.no. 23 s.c.a. and talon will be gratuitously obtainable at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam against delivery of 200 div.cps.no. 21 of CDRs repr. 5 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs., 20 div.cps.no. 21 of CDRs repr. 50 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. and 10 div.cps.no. 21 of CDRs repr. 100 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. Combination of denominations is possible.

In Luxembourg div.cps.no. 21 can be delivered at Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A., 14 Rue Aldringen, Luxembourg for this purpose. After 23.9.1983 the equivalent of the CDRs which have not been claimed by the holders of div.cps.no. 21 will be sold. The proceeds, after deduction of expenses, will be held in cash at the disposal of said holders.

Further the undersigned announces that as from 20th June 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V. in Amsterdam and at Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A. in Luxembourg div.cps.no. 22 (accompanied by an "Affidavit") of the CDRs Ito-Yokado Co. Ltd will be payable with $1.68 per CDR repr. 5 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each: $16.80 per CDR repr. 50 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each and with $33.60 per CDR repr. 100 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each (div. per record-date 28.2.1983: gross Yen 9.5 p.sh.), after deduction of 15% Japanese tax = Yen 71.25 = $-.30 per CDR repr. 5 Dep. Shs. of 10 Shs. each: Yen 712.50 = $3 per CDR repr. 50 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each: Yen 1,425.- = $6.- per CDR repr. 100 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each. Without an "Affidavit" 20% Jap.tax = Yen 95.- = $-.40 per CDR repr. 5 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each: Yen 950.- = $4.- per CDR repr. 50 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each: Yen 1900.- = $8.- per CDR repr. 100 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each will be deducted.

After 28.9.1983 the div. will only be paid under deduction of 20% Jap.tax with resp. $1.58; $15.80 and $31.60 per CDR repr. 5, 50 and 100 Dep.Shs. of 10 Shs. each in accordance with the Japanese tax regulations.
Amsterdam, 3rd June, 1983
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

KOMATSU FORKLIFT CO., LTD.
(CDRs)

The undersigned announces that as from 15th August 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172 in Amsterdam and at Banque Générale du Luxembourg, 14, Rue Aldringen in Luxembourg, div.cp.no. 17 (accompanied by an "Affidavit") of the CDRs Komatsu Forklift Co., Ltd., repr. 1,000 shs. will be payable with US$10.61 net (div. per record date 31.3.1983: gross Yen 3.— p.sh.) after deduction of 15% Japanese tax = Yen 450.— = US$1.87 per CDR.

Without an Affidavit 20% Jap.tax (= Yen 600.— = US$2.50) will be deducted.

After 31.10.1983 the div. will only be paid under deduction of 20% Jap. tax with US$9.98 net, in accordance with the Japanese tax regulations.
Amsterdam, 29th July 1983.
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
(CDRs)

The undersigned announces that as from 10th June 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam, div.cp.no. 22 of the CDRs American Express Company each repr. 5 shares will be payable with Dfls. 3.31 net (div. per record-date 4.5.1983; gross $-.45 p.sh.) after deduction of 15% USA-tax = $-.3375 = Dfls.-.94 per CDR. Div.cps. belonging to non-residents of The Netherlands will be paid after deduction of an additional 15% USA-tax (= $-.3375 = Dfls.-.94) with Dfls. 4.37 net.
Amsterdam, 27th May 1983
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

OLD COURT DOLLAR COMMODITY TRUST
(CDRs)

The undersigned announces that the Annual Report for the year ended 20th April 1983 of Old Court Dollar Commodity Trust will be available in Amsterdam at:
Pierson, Heldring & Pierson N.V.,
Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.,
Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.,
Bank Mees & Hope N.V.,
Kas-Associatie N.V.
Amsterdam, July 8th 1983
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

TOKYO SANYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.
(CDRs)

The undersigned announces that as from 18th August 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam and at Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A., 14 Rue Aldringen, Luxembourg, div.cp.no. 15 (accompanied by an "Affidavit") of the CDRs Tokyo Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd., will be payable with $1.22 net per 50R. repr. 100 shs and with $12.20 net per CDR repr. 1,000shs. (div. per record-date 31.5.1983: gross Yen 3.5 p.sh.) after deduction of 15% Japanese tax = Yen 52.50 = $—.22 per CDR, repr. 100 shs., Yen 525.— = $2.20 per CDR repr. 1,000 shs. Without an Affidavit 20% Jap. tax = Yen 70.— = $—.29 per CDR, repr. 100 shs., Yen 700.— = $2.90 per CDR, repr. 1,000 shs., will be deducted.

After 31.12.1983 the dividend will only be paid under deduction of 20% Jap.tax with resp. $1.15 and $11.50 net, in accordance with the Japanese tax regulations.
Amsterdam, 4th August 1983.
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

NIPPON CHEMICAL CONDENSER CO., LTD.
(CDRs)

The undersigned announces that as from 15th August 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172 in Amsterdam and at Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., Luxembourg, div.cp. no. 8 (accompanied by an "Affidavit") of the CDRs Nippon Chemical Condenser Co., Ltd., will be payable with US$42.42 net. (div. per record-date 31.3.1983: gross Yen 12.- p.sh.) after deduction of 15% Japanese tax = Yen 1,800.— = US$7.49 per CDR. Without an Affidavit 20% Japanese tax (= Yen 2,400.— = US$9.98 per CDR) will be deducted.

After 31.10.1983 the dividend will only be paid under deduction of 20% Jap.tax with US$39.93 per CDR, in accordance with the Japanese tax regulations.
Amsterdam, 29th July 1983.
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

OLD COURT DOLLAR COMMODITY TRUST
(CDRs)

The undersigned announces that as from 5th July 1983 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam and at Pierson, Heldring & Pierson N.V., Herengracht 214, Amsterdam, div.cp.no. 6 of the CDRs Old Court Dollar Commodity Trust will be payable with Dfls. 19.46 per CDR, repr. 10 units and with Dfls. 194.60 per CDR, repr. 100 units. (div. per record-date 20.4.1983: US$.69 per unit) This dividend distribution is not subject to tax with-holding at source.
Amsterdam, 23rd June 1983.
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

TOKYO SANYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.
(CDRs)

Referring to the advertisement of 2nd March, 1983 the undersigned announces that as from August 8th, 1983 bonus dividend no. 13 of CDRs Tokyo Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. will be payable in cash with U.S.$21.37 per CDR repr. 100 Shs. and with U.S.$ 213.70 per CDR repr. 1,000 Shs. at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam.
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.
Amsterdam, 25th July, 1983

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
(CDRs)

The Board of Directors of American Express Company voted a three for two split to the shareholders of record July 8th, 1983. The new shares will be available on or about the 20th of September, 1983. For this purpose div.cp.no. 23 of the CDRs has been designated. The new CDRs will be provided with div.cp.no. 25 s.c.a. and talon. The Board also declared a quarterly dividend of record July 8th, 1983 for which div.cp.no. 24 of the CDRs has been designated.
Amsterdam, 2nd June, 1983.
AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

SECTION III
FINANCIAL NEWS

June 1 - August 8

This supplement covers the major financial news during the period the Financial Times was not published

INSIDE

Recovery eases anxiety over surging dollar

DURING the spring and early summer of 1982, the outlook for the world economy was dominated by the rise and rise of the U.S. dollar and the accompanying fears that U.S. interest rates had passed their trough.

However, these anxieties, reflecting the depressing effects of the sharp rise in interest rates in 1981, have been modified to some extent by the strength of the U.S. recovery.

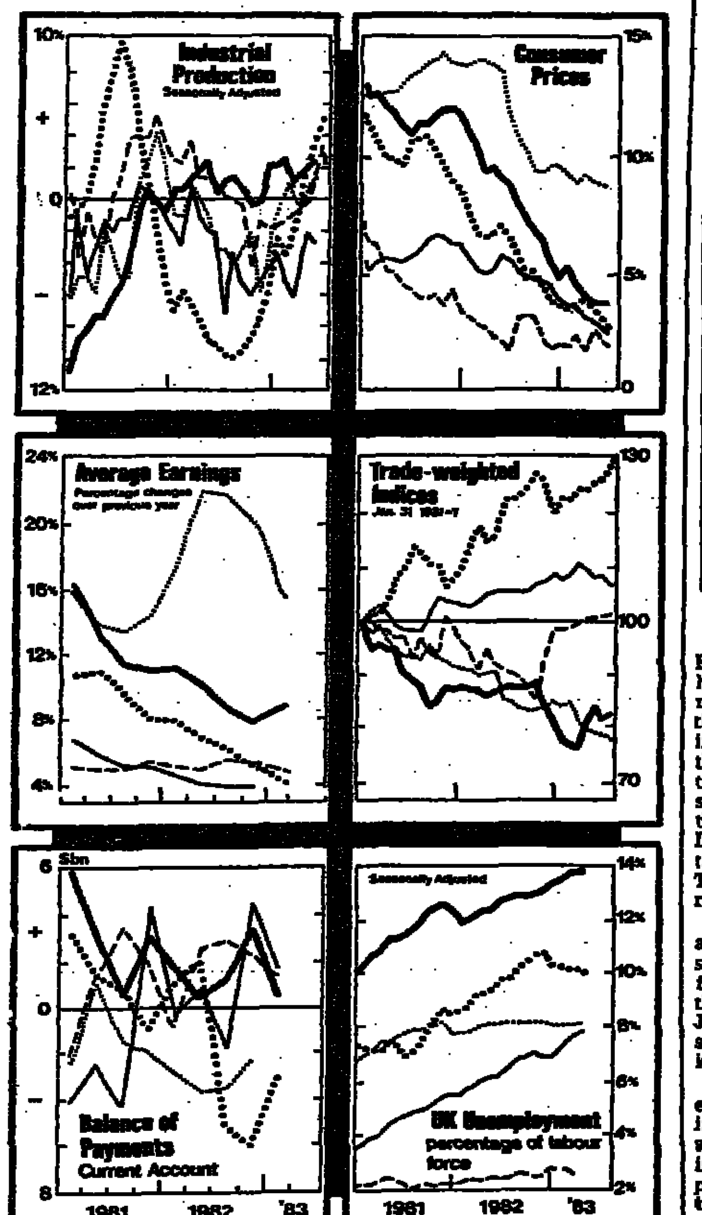
U.S. output was growing at an annualised rate of 8.7 per cent in the second quarter of the year, and this has been an encouraging factor for the other major economies. The UK and Japan are now expected to grow by 2½ and 3 per cent in the current year, although the economies of France and West Germany are still sluggish. The high U.S. dollar will help other countries to increase exports to the U.S. provided that trade restrictions do not stop the flow.

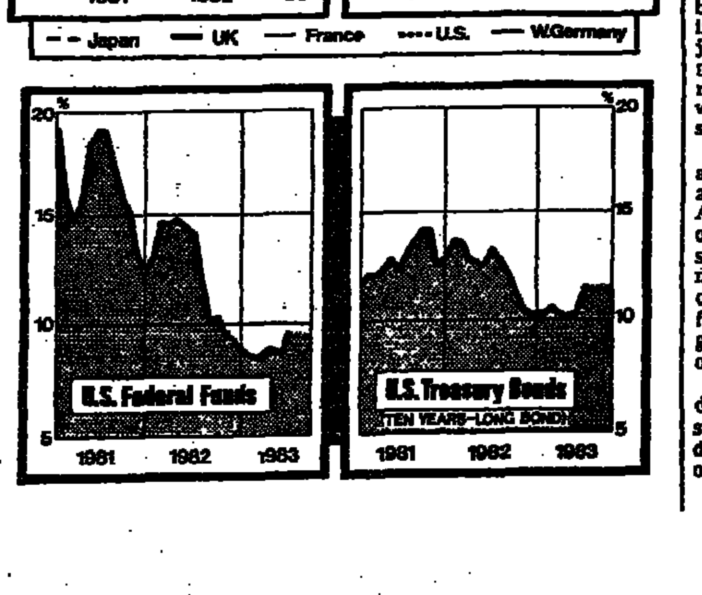
Although unemployment is starting to fall in the U.S., growth in the rest of the developed world is not expected to be fast enough to turn the rising trend this year or next.

Consumer price inflation has continued to fall in most countries, and interest rates are extremely high in "real" terms by historic standards.

Nevertheless, the outlook for interest rates is highly uncertain, particularly as the accelerating pace of U.S. recovery is likely to lead to increased demand for credit from the U.S. corporate sector.

The extent to which other countries can insulate themselves from these forces appears limited while the U.S. needs to attract foreign savings to finance its huge budget deficits and while governments remain anxious about the inflationary consequences of further falls of their currencies against the dollar.





THE UK ECONOMY

BY MAX WILKINSON

Lawson charts course between need for growth and danger of inflation

AS THE dust settles after the Chancellor's post-election £600m package of spending cuts, official anxieties are reverting to the perennial theme of the threat which high U.S. interest rates and the strong dollar pose for recovery in the UK and Europe.

Yet the economic outlook, at least for the immediate future, continues to be moderately encouraging; most forecasters have revised their predictions for growth upwards and in June, the underlying increase in UK unemployment was the lowest for 15 months, and the underlying pressure of inflation still appears to be weakening.

However, the decision by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to announce spending cuts so soon after the election showed just how narrow and rocky is the course now being charted between the need for growth and the danger of inflation.

But the uncertainties facing Mr Lawson seem in many ways at least as perplexing as when the Conservatives came to power in 1979, and his strategy for dealing with them is correspondingly more complex. Then it was clear that top priority had to be given to rooting out inflation, as the rate started to soar towards a peak of 21.5 per cent in the spring of 1980.

The means of attack was to be: tight control of the money supply backed by a Medium-Term Financial Strategy for a synchronised squeeze on government borrowing and monetary growth.

Mr Lawson, then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, played a major part in drawing up the original MTFS and he has made it immediately clear that his determination to follow a regime of tight policies is undimmed.

However, Mr Lawson embarks on the second lap of the Conservative "experiment in monetarism" with a quite different set of problems from those which confronted Sir Geoffrey Howe four years ago.

Retail sales still buoyant

The most obvious difference is that unemployment has risen from an underlying 1.28m to 3m, and would be considerably more on a comparable accounting basis. In the three months to June, unemployment was rising at an underlying rate of 22,000 a month, although there was some sign of deceleration in July.

In a BBC television interview shortly after his appointment, Mr Lawson revealed his concern about "the problem of unemployment" but said: "We didn't promise growth as such . . . what we did promise was to get inflation down, which we have done."

The essence of the Conservatives' strategy, he said, was that the policies were the most likely to achieve sustainable growth, but that governments did not have the power to engineer a particular rate of growth.

For the remainder of this year, therefore, the Treasury and Mr Lawson must be anxious that the Government's financial policies should not cast an early frost over the still tender recovery in output.

This is particularly important when the Government is at last able to point to some evidence that a "spontaneous" recovery is rising out of the regime of tight financial policies of the last four years.

In the first three months of this year, national output was 2 per cent higher than a year earlier and 1 per cent higher than in the previous quarter. Industrial output in the three months to May was at last showing signs of responding to the increase in consumer spending with a 1.7 per cent increase compared with the average for the previous three months.

Retail sales have also continued to be buoyant, with the average volume in the three months to June 2.3 per cent higher than in the previous three month period and 6.4 per cent higher than the level in the equivalent period a year earlier.

Consumer spending remains fairly buoyant even though the proportion of income which goes into net savings has fallen from the high levels of two years ago.

The huge rundown of stocks in the last three months of 1982 appears to have come to an end and in the first three months of this year there was a slight rebuilding of stocks mainly in the retail sector.

Moreover, the Government cannot afford to allow unemployment to rise very much further for financial as well as humanitarian reasons. The present cost of unemployment in benefits paid and tax revenues foregone has been estimated at £15bn a year. And the cost of the extra unemployed during the period of the last Conservative Government almost exactly matched the increase in North Sea oil revenues.

Tight hold on public spending

However, the Treasury is not expecting any increase in North Sea oil revenue next year (1984-85) above the £8bn received in 1982-83. And for 1985-86 it is cautiously forecasting only a small rise, to £9.5bn.

Any further unexpected rise in unemployment would therefore have a directly adverse impact on the public sector borrowing requirement and thus make it more difficult for Mr Lawson to keep to his medium-term strategy for curbing inflation without a damaging rise in interest rates.

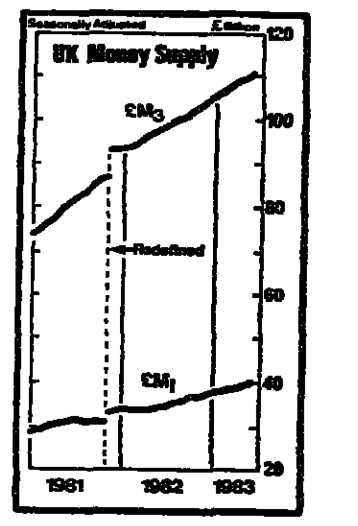
Mr Lawson has clearly signalled that his strategy for breaking out of the danger of such a vicious circle is to keep a tight hold of public spending with departments tightly reined in to their cash totals.

However, in spite of all the fierce talk in Downing Street and Great George Street as next year's public spending talks heave into action, it is privately conceded that the scope for cuts is very limited.

The commitment to Nato to expand defence expenditure by 3 per cent a year in real terms is still in force. Education and health cannot be cut below the minimum needed to give a decent service to the public, local authority expenditures have been notoriously difficult to control, and some two-thirds of all public spending including pensions is determined by demand. Capital spending has already been cut to below prudent levels in many parts of the public sector.

If wages fell substantially, the Government could indeed find itself in a virtuous circle in which tax cuts could be combined with a somewhat easier fiscal regime, and a lowered demand for money would allow interest rates to become easier.

The behaviour of inflation, and particularly of wages, during the next 12 to 15 months is therefore the strand from which the rest of the Government's policies are suspended.



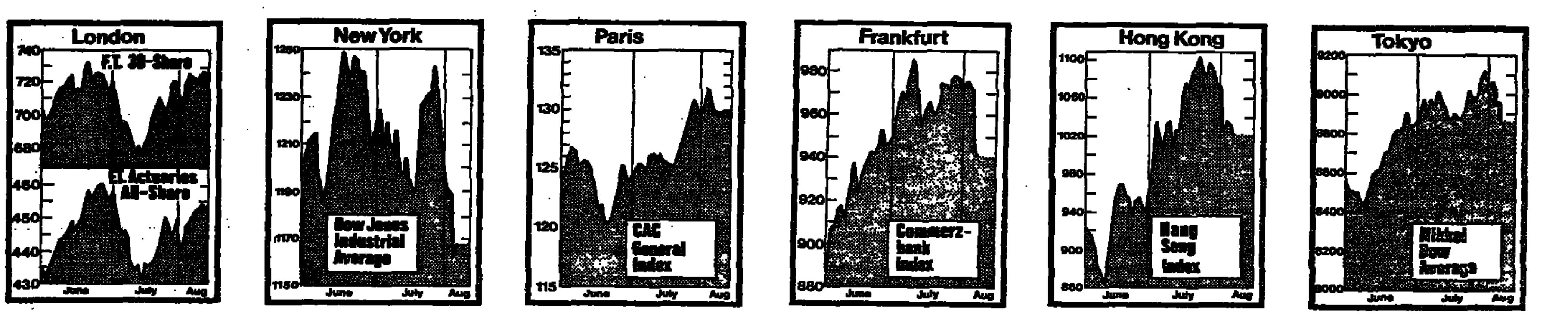
If wage claims continue to moderate to, say, 4 or 5 per cent next year while sterling remains firm, the inflation rate could continue to fall next year. This may be helped by some further large gains in productivity if rising output is accompanied by further increases in unemployment as happened in the first three months of this year.

But if the rate of wage inflation seemed set to accelerate again, there is little doubt that the Government would feel obliged to stamp on the brakes, with perhaps dire consequences for output and jobs.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

BY DUNCAN CAMPBELL-SMITH

U.S. casts shadow over summer equities as the bull market comes to maturity



EQUITIES around the world have enjoyed a global bull market for many months. But the leading stock exchange indices did not all embark on this happy course at the same time. The first half of the summer saw them diverge as those with an early start, like London and New York, yielded the limelight to others, notably Tokyo, which turned upwards rather later in 1982.

But events in the U.S. debt and money markets cast a long shadow over them all. This focused even more attention than usual through June and July on the reactions of the stock exchanges within the U.S. itself.

The great game in U.S. equities was how to jump aside in time to dodge the long-awaited correction in the maturing bull market. Wall Street predictions of a correction have been ten a penny since the beginning of the year. Many investors by early June had jumped this way and that more times than they cared to remember but by the second week of June a major downturn seemed as likely as ever.

At this point the Dow Jones averages promptly surged again with the Industrial Average reaching a new high of 1248.30 on June 16. It was so long since the great bull market days of 1968, said one or two noted pundits remorsefully, that they had quite forgotten the strength and stamina of the beast.

Sustaining it was a continued diet of nourishing recovery statistics, some of them feeding directly into the performance of individual sectors. Sore airlines were among the many stocks benefiting from the furious pace of consumer spending, as too were residential building companies and the semi-conductor giants.

Meanwhile, a growing number of New York brokerage houses were shifting their bets in the direction of heavy industrial cyclical stocks, a process already evident early in the year. General Motors reached its highest level since 1977 and Chrysler's shares rose over $30 for the first time in 10 years.

Just as all prospects at a bull market correction had seemed to have vanished, so now like Lewis Carroll's Cheshire Cat its shape reappeared. Prices drifted down through the second half of June and early July despite every apparent encouragement for the bulls from U.S. manufacturing industry.

By the first fortnight of July the Dow Jones Industrial Average had retreated once again towards the 1,180 level it had approached in May and June.

For a few days, the correction then seemed to vanish just as it had done before. Blue chip stocks gathered fresh support and pushed the Dow averages back towards record levels. Some analysts even suggested that a temporary upward adjustment in interest rates would not necessarily be taken amiss by share investors. It might signal, they said a reassuring control over the economy's growth by the Federal Reserve.

The reality was rather different. In the first place, the Dow indices partially concealed a marked downturn in the broader market. Key areas like the technology stocks were falling heavily. A high technology stocks index maintained by West Coast investment bankers Hambrecht and Quist surrendered more than a third of its 1983 gains after peaking on June 24.

Above all, U.S. investors did seize upon the climb in interest rates as a source for concern. The mid-year estimate of the return for 1983 on the Standard and Poor's 500 stocks index stands at just over 9 per cent. When Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave public testimony about the Fed's policy on July 20, the yield in the long-term government bond market was already around 11.3 per cent—a daunting gap for many share investors.

Attempts by Mr Volcker to reassure the markets that a drastic tightening of U.S. monetary policy had not been launched left share prices unimpressed while long bond yields resumed their gradual climb.

Equities registered their concern by changing direction, as it happens, on the very day that Mr Volcker was reconfirmed in office for a further term by the U.S. Senate. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed on July 27 well below a record high reached during the day, just a whisker below 1,260.

Last week, after several sharp falls in the Dow average, it finally broke away from the June-July trading range back down to mid-April levels. July saw the lowest trading volume since December and a continuing stream of ebullient data from the U.S. economy may add further to the evident dilemma of U.S. investors. But there seemed every chance last week that dollar interest rates might prompt the belated correction in domestic equities as surely as they have bolstered the dollar on international exchange markets.

In **London**, anticipation of a Conservative victory at the polls on June 9 left UK share prices a little short of inspiration after the election. The London bull market was also subdued by the weight of a heavy rights issue calendar and events in New York were daily regarded as carrying the threat of a shared correction on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the circumstances, it was almost right and proper that heavy U.S. buying of selected UK stocks should have made a worthwhile contribution to supporting the London market. ICI, Glaxo, Plessey, Boots and one or two others comprised a happy band of names which together outperformed even the oils and building materials sectors—two others which managed to defy the market's general listlessness.

After pushing the FT Actuaries All-Share Index to its new high of 460.02 on June 27, the London market then succumbed in July to concern over the direction of the UK monetary aggregates. Newly announced moves by the British government to curtail the UK public sector borrowing requirement appeared to leave many investors uneasy that the underlying situation here was rather worse than it had appeared.

Confidence in the long term vigour of the UK recovery may have remained intact—with brokers' analysts continuing to anticipate a 25 per cent increase in corporate profits over the next 12 months—but few share sectors were able to find a pretext for gaining further ground just yet and the FT All-Share slipped steadily back through July to close the month at 445.96.

In **Japan**, on the other hand, a formal government announcement late in July that the domestic economy had bottomed out marked an appropriate conclusion to two strong months on the Tokyo stock exchange. After a lengthy period of consolidation, the market also benefited conspicuously from overseas interest in major blue chip stocks like Hitachi, TDK and Fuji Photo.

Consumer electronics manufacturers have been rather less to the fore of the Tokyo market's latest advance than usual, though analysts have remarked upon the revival of VCR exports. In the wake of Nippon Telephone and Telegraph's huge Information Network System project, shares in the major industrial electronics and communications companies have been attracting particular attention.

The Nikkei Dow Jones Average reached a new high of 9,112.07 on July 28 before the dampening effect of Wall Street's late July downturn curbed its June-July gain to leave a net advance of only about 4 per cent by last week.

Heavy overseas buying was a feature of most Far Eastern markets in June and July. In **Hong Kong**, the Hang Seng index started June at just over the 900 level and suffered an unsettled month, due to speculation about the resumed Sino-British talks on the future of the colony.

Greater optimism on this score as well as a stronger Hong Kong dollar was then buttressed by the foreign buying early in July and the Hang Seng started the second week by rising through the 1000 level. Last week, it was still holding on to a 14 per cent gain over two months, despite jitters over U.S. interest rates.

The West German share market was another which performed strongly in early July. June was spent largely in consolidating major gains made earlier in the year: the Commerzbank index, for example, had reached its highest level in 22 years on April 27. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung index reached 331.8 on July 8 before succumbing to interest rate concerns. This index was last week showing a net gain of only about 5 per cent on its level at the end of May—suggesting that an internationally weak D-Mark has yet to draw overseas buyers into West German shares.

None of the world's major bourses, however, can hold a candle to the market tucked away in one of the less favoured corners of the investment world, only really familiar to international bankers and their lawyers. The Mexican stock market, after putting on 115 per cent in the first half of 1983, climbed another 12.5 per cent in July—and even then it closed at the end of July 6 per cent or so below its peak for the month.

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

New Life business enjoying good year

BY ERIC SHORT

The UK life assurance industry is enjoying one of its best ever years as regards new business, with two sectors experiencing unprecedented boom conditions.

The changeover to paying mortgage interest net of basic rate tax, known as MIRAS, has brought about a revival in conventional with-profit endowment business. Unit-linked life assurance has continued to forge ahead, with investors showing very keen interest in the new-style Capital Transfer Tax mitigation schemes and certain life companies enjoying a bonanza in sales of tax avoidance plans ahead of them being stopped in the Finance Act.

However, certain sectors remain dull. Industrial life business—where premiums are paid weekly or four weekly and collected by agents at the homes of policyholders—is showing minimal growth over the period. Company pension scheme business remains dull while recessionary conditions continue, though there appears to be a revival in executive pension business and self-employed pensions continue to grow steadily.

The new business figures of those individual life companies which have issued results for the first six months are summarised as follows:—

Prudential Corporation—Worldwide business new annual premiums of £142.5m (up 8 per cent) and single premiums of £133m (28 per cent increase).

In the UK, ordinary individual annual premiums of Prudential Assurance were £50.8m (35 per cent ahead) including £12m from sales of 50,000 mortgage-related policies compared with minimal business in 1982. Single premiums on individual business of Prudential Assurance were £32.2m (161 per cent advance) with sales of the new unit-linked bond amounting to £19m. Group pensions amounted to annual premiums of £17.5m (down 11 per cent) and single premiums of £21.2m (15 per cent less). Industrial life annual premiums amounted to £36m (3 per cent lower).

Legal and General Group. Worldwide business—new annual premiums of £68.2m (+39 per cent) and single premiums of £97.3m (+220 per cent). Highlights include annual premiums of £43.6m (+132 per cent) on UK individual business and single premiums of £83.9m (+374 per cent), the latter growth coming from a sevenfold jump in unit-linked single premiums to £74m. On UK group *life and pensions business, new* annual premiums were £18.4m (−21 per cent), while single premiums reached £12.4m (+33 per cent).

Royal Life, the life and pensions division of the **Royal Insurance Group**, on its worldwide business had new annual premiums of £32.2m (+163 per cent) and single premiums of £39.4m (+136 per cent). Its UK operations saw new annual premiums of £30.5m (+180 per cent) and single premiums of £38.7m (+141 per cent).

Hambro Life Assurance. New annual premiums of £38.7m (+9 per cent), single premiums of £77.9m (+45 per cent) and unit trust sales of £38.7m (+325 per cent) from the subsidiary **Allied Hambro Unit Trust.** New initial commissions, the company's measure of new business growth, were £21.8m (+19 per cent), including £1m on unit trust sales of Allied Hambro. Total group assets over the period rose from £1.53bn to £2.22bn, an increase of 45 per cent.

Sun Life Assurance. New annual premiums of £23.2m (+36 per cent) and single premiums of £89.8m (+164 per cent). Outstanding figures were new annual premiums for conventional individual life contracts of £9.4m (+97 per cent), reflecting the boom in mortgage-related contracts, and unit-linked single premiums of £24.9m (+232 per cent) on life contracts and £8.2m (+116 per cent) on personal pension plans.

Equity and Law Life Assurance Society. Worldwide new annual premiums of £15.9m (+44 per cent) and single premiums of £39.8m (+99 per cent). New annual premiums on UK mortgage-related business amounted to £3.6m (+200 per cent), while UK linked investment bond premiums jumped threefold. On its European operations, new business in West Germany doubled and single premiums in Holland rose by nearly two-thirds.

London and Manchester Assurance Group. New annual premiums of £10.5m (+48 per cent) and single premiums of £10.7m (+88 per cent). Annual *premiums in the Home Service* division showed a 64 per cent to £2.6m, but only a 6 per cent rise in the Industrial Branch to £3.7m. New annual premiums in the Pension division were £1.7m (+55 per cent) and single premiums were £3m (+67 per cent). New *annual premiums in* the Life Broker division were £2.6m (+165 per cent) and single premiums of £7.4m (+102 per cent).

Provident Life Association of London—a member of the Winterthur Swiss Insurance Group. New annual premiums £2.73m (+70 per cent) consisting of life assurance premiums of £2.21m (+86 per cent) and pension premiums of £517,000 (+23 per cent). Single premiums amounted to £1.83m (=246 per cent).

Equitable Life Assurance Society. New annual premiums £39.53m (+55 per cent) and single premiums (+177 per cent). Highlights in the annual premium figures include mortgage-related business of £4.61m (+134 per cent), self-employed pensions of £23.69m (+50 per cent) and executive pensions £6.94m (+48 per cent).

Friends' Provident Life Office. UK business new annual premiums £21.9m (+222 per cent) and single premiums £18.1m (+285 per cent), with 73,000 policies sold compared with 27,000. Main growth areas were mortgage-related business, sales of the high yield savings plan *Maxidowment and entry into the* unit-linked field with over 10,000 policies sold and funds already exceeding £15m.

National Provident Institution. New annual premiums £11.5m (+35 per cent) and single premiums £29.6m (+79 per cent). Ordinary life new annual premiums were £1.5m (+87 per cent) due mainly to the boom in mortgage related business and new annual premiums on self-employed pensions were £6.6m (+47 per cent).

Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society. New annual premiums on UK individual life and pensions business £25.3m (+153 per cent). Single premiums amounted to £28.6m (+134 per cent). Annual premiums on mortgage-related contracts amounted to £16m against £2.3m in 1982. Unit-linked business recorded new annual premiums of £1.3m (+145 per cent) and single premiums of £20m (+292 per cent). Total premium revenue on insured group pension schemes was £8.8m (—15 per cent) while the managed fund *SCAMPI* has more than doubled its revenue from £39.4m to £83.6m.

Interim and preliminary statements edited in condensed form

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AAH improves

A final dividend of 3.41p is recommended by **AAH Holdings**, to lift the total from 5.2p to 5.615p net for the year ended *March 31 1983*. Profit came out at £9.37m, against £8.62m, subject to tax £2.87m (£2.43m) and attributable to National Coal Board and other outside interests £2.29m (£2.09m). Earnings were 14.2p (14p).

Trading profit amounted to £11.75m (£10.7m). This was made up of solid fuel £5.93m (£6.35m), which included 100 per cent of Western Fuel's figures for the first time; oil £811,000 (£942,000) which reflected higher than normal bad debts; builders' supplies £2.23m (£1.09m); pharmaceutical supplies £1.48m (£1.38m); road haulage £671,000 (£736,000); agricultural services £745,000 (£127,000); engineering loss £4,000 (profit £206,000); miscellaneous loss £113,000 (£340,000).

The current year has started satisfactorily, the directors state.

A.B. Engineering

Profits before tax of **Associated British Engineering** rose from *£798,000 to £1.02m for the year* to end-March, 1983 and the dividend is being stepped up from 0.55p to 0.65p net per 12½p share by a final of 0.325p.

Along with the announcement the directors said they were proposing to raise aprpximately £1.8m net by way of an underwritten rights issue of 5,784,653 ordinary shares at 33p on a one-for-three basis.

They said they felt it prudent to strengthen the group's capital base in order to sustain current growth in existing businesses.

Turnover for the past year more than doubled to £33.64m (£16.57m). Operating profits amounted to £1.68m (£1.03m) — a divisional breakdown of these shows: distribution £518,000 (£478,000), electrical £802,000 (£40,000) and engineering £361,000 (£507,000).

Earnings per share amounted to 5.15p (4.64p).

Acrow loss £14m

The engineering concern **ACROW** reports a loss of £14.06m for the year ended March 31, 1983, compared with £3.93m last time—this latter has been increased by £1.26m over that previously reported because of overstatement of stock and work by a subsidiary in 1981-82. There is no dividend, against 0.375p net per share.

This year's loss is struck after interest £6.18m (£5.89m), redundancies £2.52m (£304,000) and costs in respect of the Acrow world convention £215,000 (nil). There are extraordinary debits of £2.25m (£1.27m), mainly being losses and provisions regarding reorganisation and cessation of business. Loss per *share is 22.52p* (6.64p).

The group continues to be affected by declining markets and weakness in the engineering and heavy construction industry. Retrenchment through factory closures and cost savings, together with product rationalisation and efficiency improvements have been achieved since the appointment of Mr Cunningham as group managing director and chief executive.

The workforce was reduced by 15 per cent (900 people) in the year, a further 400 have been made redundant during the last three months and by the end of September that will have reached 800. Cost of plant closures has been taken within the extraordinary charge of £2.3m.

The directors are expecting the loss to be reduced significantly in the current year.

AE Group

Reflecing the difficult trading conditions particularly in the first quarter, the AE Group (formerly Associated Engineering) has run into a loss of £2.3m in the six months ended March 31 1983, and the directors are passing the interim dividend.

In the UK the group made a profit after redundancy and related costs, but overseas the performance was poor, especially from South Africa. Overall the group managed a small profit in the second quarter.

For the corresponding half year the group was in profit to the tune of £5.2m, but that had been turned round to a loss of £200,000 by September 30 1982. The interim dividend was 0.8p, followed by a final of 0.6p.

The sale of AE Motor Spares in South Africa was completed in May. That company incurred a loss of £2.8m in the six months, of which about one-half was provided in the 1982 accounts. A further provision of £1.3m for loss on sale has been included as an extraordinary charge.

After tax £200,000 (£800,000), minority credits £900,000 (£200,000 debits) and the extraordinary charge, there is a net loss available of £2.9m (profit £4.2m). Loss per share is given as 1.6p (earnings 4.3p).

Aeronautical & Gen.

Profits of **Aeronautical & General Instruments** rose by £0.81m to £1.09m for the year ended March 31, 1983 and the dividend is being lifted by 1p to 4.5p net per 25p share.

The group's order book, particularly in telecommunication products, is healthy with electronic payphones now in full production. Significant orders have been received for new models as mechanical models are phased out.

The directors face the future with confidence. Prospects generally are for increased turnover, although at a slower rate, with profits continuing to improve.

Turnover for 1982/83 expanded from £8.86m to £13.28m. Tax took £0.47m (added £0.13m) and earnings emerged at 15.37p (9.88p) per share—comparisons have been restated regarding product development costs.

Agricultural Mort.

Pre-tax profits of the **Agricultural Mortgage Corporation** improved from £5.03m to £5.69m for the year to March 31, 1983. Tax took less at £2.59m, against £2.87m—the company's shares are held by various banks.

Aidcom growth

In the half-year ended April 30 1983 **Aidcom International** has increased its profits from £138,000 to £239,000, on turnover of £3.52m (£1.69m). After tax £124,000 (£72,000) and minorities £15,000 (£1,000), earnings are given as 0.95p (0.67p). The results include profits of *Cockman Copeman Partners, for* three months only, of £23,000 before minorities.

Results of the new subsidiaries are not included. Start-up costs to April 30 of U.S. companies were £100,000. These companies are expected to be generating profits by the end of the financial year, and should make a "significant contribution" next year.

Costs of UK subsidiary were £30,000 net, but this company will be closed very shortly to concentrate maximum effort on group's principle practice areas and the U.S. companies.

The directors are confident that the group's results for the second half will be better. The full-year figures will include for the first time a contribution from the recently acquired interest in World Medical Markets.

AI Industrial

The half yearly dividend on the 4.2 per cent cumulative preference shares of AI Industrial Products due on June 30, is not being paid.

Aim Group

Some recovery has been made in the second half by the Aim Group of aviation and general engineers, resulting in a profit of £447,000 for the year ended April 30 1983, compared with £2.25m. Given the situation at Henshall, the main subsidiary, *the chairman says he cannot see* an early return to the profit attained in 1981-82.

However, the rest of the group enjoys a very solid order book which should ensure that the current year's results are very much better. For that reason the final *dividend has been maintained at* 3.85p for a total of 5.75p.

The profit was struck after £200,000 provision for losses on realisation of work in progress and £151,000 receipt in satisfaction of damages. Earnings are shown at 2.1p (11.6p).

Henshall suffered from the complete absence of new galley demand, reflecting the severe decline in sales of new airliners. The directors felt it necessary to make provisions in respect of redundancies, stock and work in progress.

Airflow Streamlines

Northampton-based **Airflow Streamlines** raised pre-tax profits from £89,278 to £431,594 in the year to February 28 1983 on turnover of £22.41m, against £19.19m. At halfway, a turnround from a £62,000 loss to a profit of £169,000 was reported.

The year's dividend is being lifted from 0.25p to 0.75p net with a doubled final of 0.5p. Earnings per 25p share were higher at 3.2p (1.56p) basic or 2.38p (1.16p) fully diluted.

There was a tax charge of £199,444, against a £61,546 credit before, leaving a net surplus ahead from £150,824 to £232,150. An extraordinary credit added £22,908 this time.

The directors report that during the past three years it has been necessary to contract the facilities and the workforce, as a result of reduced demand in the production section of the manufacturing division. However, significant under-utilised capacity and resources are still available which will enable the section to take advantage of any upturn in demand.

The body engineering section has been expanded and should continue to make a substantial contribution, the directors state. The motor division continues to expand and increased sales should be achieved. Since the year-end, a branch has been opened in Daventry as a Ford dealer.

Airship Industries

For the 14 months ended March 31 1983, USM company **Airship Industries** suffered losses of £3.69m, compared with £1.69m for the previous 12 months.

Operating deficit amounted to £3.11m (£1.46m), depreciation took £414,000 (£148,000) and interest on short-term loans and overdrafts £165,000 (£78,000).

Directors say that the Paris Air Show was a success for the *company, culminating in three* contracts being agreed. All eight airships in the company's current production programme to March 31 1984, are subject to lease and/or sales commitments and deliveries to customers have started.

Aitken Hume

Trebled pre-tax profits of *£2.27m*, as against £0.77m, were achieved by banking, corporate finance and investment management group, **Aitken Hume Holdings**, in the year to March 31 1983. Gross revenue surged ahead from £4.62m to £10.21m.

Fees and other non-interest income now account for approximately two-thirds of profits, with *a consequent improvement in the* quality of earnings, the directors state.

Earnings per 25p share were 22.68p (adjusted 9.04p) basic and 17.72p (adjusted 8.19p) fully diluted. The dividend total is effectively raised from 3p to 3.625p net, with a final of 2.75p.

The current year has started strongly with business in the UK at record levels. A number of interesting opportunities in the U.S. are also under examination, the directors report.

They therefore look forward to a year of further expansion and to a period of new developments.

Albion swings back

Albion, manufacturer and wholesaler of outerwear for men, youths and boys, returned to profit in the half-year to March 31, 1983. Pre-tax figures were £240,000 against losses of £370,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Turnover was down from £4.8m to £3.82m. No interim dividend is again being paid—the last payment was an interim of 0.6p in 1980. The pre-tax figure included a revenue grant this time of £200,000. No tax was again payable.

There was an extraordinary debit of £96,000 (nil), being the loss on sale of shares in subsidiaries £156,000, and other credits £20,000, less £80,000, being profit on factory disposal.

The directors say the present order position is satisfactory and there is every indication that the progress made in the first half will continue. The company has successfully renegotiated with one of its bankers sufficient overdraft and term loan facilities to November 1983.

Alexanders Discount

Although not as high as in the corresponding period last year, profits at **Alexanders Discount** for the half year to the end of *June 1983 are considered to be* "reasonable" according to the directors. They say that trading conditions are less favourable in the half year under review.

The net interim dividend of this discount house has been held at 6.5p.

Alliance Investment

A final dividend of 2.12p, against 1.97p, lifts the total payment of **Alliance Investment** from 2.97p to 3.12p net per 25p share for the year ended April 30 1983. Also proposed is a one-for-one scrip issue.

Revenue for the period came through ahead at £747,215 (£701,025) after tax of £432,127 (£470,240) giving earnings per share of 3.24p, against 3.03p.

Net assets per share are given as 173p (120.1p) with prior charges at nominal value and 174.8p (122.1p) at market value.

Allied Colloids

Industrial chemical group **Allied Colloids** pushed its pre-tax profits up by 28.7 per cent, from £9.46m to £12.18m, for the year to April 2 1983 on turnover of £62.48m, compared with £56.01m—comparisons have been restated.

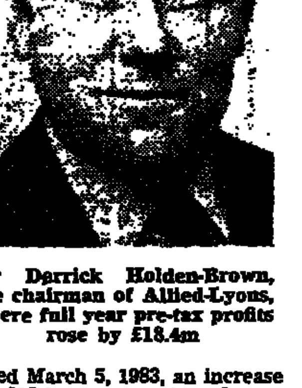
Earnings amounted to 15.36p (10.84p) per 10p share and a final dividend of 2.4p effectively lifts the net total to 3.05p (2.59p adjusted). A scrip issue on a one-for-five basis is also proposed.

Exchange rate fluctuations resulted in a net overall gain of almost £1.5m, compared with 1981/82, about half the total increase.

Business in the current year is showing an "encouraging trend."

Allied-Lyons

Sharply improved results by its beer division enabled **Allied-Lyons**, the food and drinks group, to push its pre-tax profits up to £159.6m for the 52 weeks



Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, the chairman of Allied-Lyons, where full year pre-tax profits rose by £18.4m

ended March 5, 1983, an increase of £18.4m over the figures returned for the previous year.

The directors, headed by Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, the chairman, are stepping up the dividend total from 5.5p to 6.05p *net per 25p share with a final* of 3.85p.

Group turnover moved ahead from £2.4bn to £2.64bn and at the trading level profits emerged £22.5m higher at £226.7m, before depreciation of £54.6m, against £49.4m.

Pre-tax results (£85.7m, against £75.7m, came in the second half) included £14.3m (£17.2m) profit on the disposal of properties and investments, a £4.4m increased share of profits of related companies at £24.8m *and income from other investments* of £2.1m (£1.7m). Finance charges rose from £52.9m to £53.7m.

Tax took £49.4m (£47.1m) and below the line minorities accounted for £4.5m (£4.7m). Available profits came through at *£105.3m (£89m) after same-again* preference dividends of £0.4m.

Extraordinary charges rose by £8.4m to £15.6m.

Earnings per share improved from 14.1p to 16.4p pre-extraordinary items and from 12.9p to 14p after such charges.

Allied Plant

Along with its results for the year 1982, showing a pre-tax loss of £296,000, compared with a previous profit of £44,000 **Allied Plant Group** is calling on shareholders for £1.65m net by an underwritten rights issue of 10 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 1985-86.

Terms are £11 nominal of loan stock at par *for every 150* ordinary, plus £11 nominal of stock at par for every 30 preference shares.

The directors are proposing a reduction in the group's capital which would result in a small surplus of reserves and enable dividends to be paid out of future profits.

The reduction of capital would be on the basis that each 10p ordinary is converted into shares of 2½p and that the ordinary 2½p shares be consolidated into shares of 5p.

Turnover for the year totalled £8.06m (£12.97m). No dividend is being paid—a nominal 0.667p net was paid previously after allowing for the two-for-one scrip issue.

Allied Textile

First half pre-tax profits of **Allied Textile Companies** improved from £1.23m to £1.49m on turnover lower at £13.03m, compared with £14m. The dividend for the period, to March 31, 1983, is held at 2.82p net.

Along with the results the directors say they intend to recommend a scrip issue of some £1m of convertible loan stock on the basis of £1 of stock for *every eight ordinary shares.*

The issue will be implemented by means of capitalising part of the share premium account.

Earnings per 25p share for the half year emerged at 8.7p (7.13p) after tax of £777,000 (£637,000).

Allnatt London

Including dividends from related companies, but after tax of £4.38m, against £3.77m, profits of **Allnatt London Properties** came out ahead from £4.29m to £5.1m for the year ended March 31 1983.

The dividend is increased to 6.2p (5.2p) net with a final payment of 5.2p, after waivers by L. H. Smith, chairman, and R. W. Diggens, director, of £519,963 (£444,138).

An open market valuation of properties, as at March 31 1983 revealed a surplus of £86.76m which has been transferred to capital reserves.

Alpine Soft Drinks

In the 52 weeks to March 26, 1983 pre-tax profits at **Alpine Soft Drinks** plunged from £1.86m to £262,000 on turnover little changed at £18.21m against £18.89m. The final dividend is cut from 2.644p to 1.206p for a reduced total *of 2.412p compared* with 3.85p.

There was a tax credit of £38,000 against a charge of £690,000. Stated earnings per 10p share fell from 9.42p to 2.92p.

The directors say sales volume of the 40 oz base products continue to be at a very low level. However, during recent months, new products have been developed and introduced to customers, and new packaging opportunities are being investigated.

They anticipate that during the current financial year, pressure on sales volumes will continue due to extensive price competition, and this makes it extremely difficult to predict accurately the level of profitability.

Amalg. Distilled

Including a first time contribution of £3.79m from Bartons Brands' U.S. activities, pre-tax profits of **Amalgamated Distilled Products** jumped from £1.22m to £4.67m for the year ended March 31 1983. Turnover surged ahead to £176.77m, against £72.88m.

Tax charge was £701,000 (£14,000) and earnings per 10p share were 15.02p (8.15p) basic *or 13.41p (7.13p) fully diluted.* The final dividend is raised to 7.75p for a total net payment of 2.75p (2p).

The directors say they are encouraged by the group's current trading performance in difficult market conditions, both in the UK and the U.S. As a result of the three acquisitions—George Morton, North West Vintners and Barton Brands—made in the past two years, they believe the group is well positioned to continue its development.

It was also announced that discussions had been initiated between the group and Argyll Foods with a view to the merger of the two companies. It was intended that the proposed merger would be effected through James Gulliver Associates as a new *holding company, which would be* re-named Argyll Group.

Amber Industrial

Increased pre-tax profits from £309,000 to £408,000 have been shown by **Amber Industrial Holdings** for the year to the end of March 1983. Turnover of this company which is controlled by Caledonia Investments moved up from £4.74m to £5.26m.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 2p to 2.5p which raises the total from 3p to 3.5p. Earnings per 10p share are shown as rising from 6.28p to 8.23p.

Pre-tax profits were struck after interest of £28,000 (£82,000). Tax amounted to £189,000 (£142,000).

AMEC advance

Pre-tax profits of AMEC rose from £13.4m to £17.8m for 1982, on turnover ahead from £245.6m to £263.5m. The directors say that the group's order book stands at a satisfactory level and prospects are considered to be very good.

As forecast last April a special interim dividend of 6.5p is being recommended which makes a *total of 9p (5.5p).*

Earnings per 50p share are shown as rising from 21.8p to 26.4p.

Tax amounted to £6.2m (£3.9m). There were extraordinary debits this time of £2.9m against previous credits of £0.8m.

The profit before tax of the Press Group is £572,000 (£7m) and the deficit of the same group for the year after extraordinary items, tax and dividends is £7.5m. The directors say the main cause is the substantial loss by Haverton Hill Fabrications.

Amersham expands

For the year ended March 31 1983 taxable profits of **Amersham International**, radioactive materials group, expanded from £8.54m to £11.73m and the dividend is lifted to 4.2p (2.1p) net per 25p share with a final payment of 2.55p.

Trading results in the early months of the current year indicate continued progress, with turnover and profits ahead of the corresponding period last year—turnover advanced from £62.56m to £78.1m for 1982-83.

Tax charge *was £3.33m* (£2.11m), minorities took £1.04m (£740,000) and earnings per share as 14.7p, compared with 12.48p.

Directors say that both sales and profits benefited from the general weakening of sterling, as well as from improved productivity.

Operating profits amounted to £12.36m (£9.75m) and were split as to: medical products £6.78m (£5.77m); research products £5.9m (£4.49m); industrial products *£2.24m (£1.56m); less overheads* not specifically attributed £2.56m (£2.06m).

Anderson Strathclyde

For the year to March 31 1983 *Anderson Strathclyde*, mining and industrial equipment manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits by £3.31m to £14.47m. The result included a £1.56m loss from National Mine Service from February 4 1983—the date of acquisition of a controlling interest.

Excluding National Mine Service, the pre-tax surplus was some £16m, which compares with a forecast in March of not less than £15.5m.

Group turnover for the year increased from £99.96m to £117.77m. Pre-tax results were struck after exceptional redundancy costs of £132,000 (£499,000) and interest charges of £513,000 (£123,000).

At the attributable level, profits improved from £8.08m to £11m, afer tax *of £3.2m* (£3.08m), minorities and an extraordinary debit this time of £885,000.

Earnings per 25p share rose by 8.1p to 25.1p and the final dividend is increased to 6p (4.9p) for a total payment of 2p higher at 8p net.

Anglia Television

Significantly depressed by the continuing Equity/IPA dispute, **Anglia Television Group's** *revenue from Channel Four fell* from £1.23m to £955,000 in the six months to April 30 1983.

This, and a jump from £850,000 to £2.86m in subscription to the channel, resulted in a sharp decline in group pre-tax profits from £2.81m to £1.53m. The *second half is also expected to* be adversely affected.

Turnover for the period under review rose from £20.46m to £24.18m, while attributable profits dropped from £1.58m to £814,000 and earnings per 25p share declined from 10.15p to 5.77p.

On these, the net interim dividend is being held at 2.5p. Last year's total payment was 6.5p from profits of £4.05m.

Anglo American Corp.

Helped by steady contributions from the coal and gold interests, **Anglo American Corporation** has turned in attributable profits for the year ended March 31, 1983, of R630.4m (£371m), just 14 per cent lower than for the previous year. The directors had forecast a fall of around one-fifth.

This produced earnings per share, including associates, of 283.9 cents, compared with 339.9 cents. The dividend is held at 110 cents with an unchanged final of 75 cents.

Stripping out associates, earnings were almost unchanged at 223.3 cents in spite of the comparatively depressed performance of the diamond interests held through the subsidiary **Anglo American Investment** (Anamint). This gives some indication of the firmness of Anglo's profit base.

As far as the current year is concerned, Anglo's industrial operations will have to live with *the continuing weakness of the* South African economy, and the world coal market is still not performing as well as had been hoped. Diamond interests will take some time to feel the effects of the gradual upturn elsewhere in the world.

Henry Ansbacher

For the year to March 31, 1983 **Henry Ansbacher Holdings** returned profits of £2.22m pre-tax, compared with the previous *year's £23,000. The dividend is* held at 0.35p net per 5p share.

The figures were struck after allowing for parent company and other central costs of £578,000 (£462,000) and profit sharing scheme £86,000 (nil).

Operating profits totalled £2.89m (£485,000). A divisional breakdown of these shows: banking (disclosed profit) £829,000 (£250,000), insurance broking £1.16m (nil), shipbroking £543,000 (nil), trust management £316,000 (£235,000) and metal broking £41,000 (nil).

After tax of £148,000 (£143,000), minorities and extraordinary debits of £1.33m (£774,000 credits) attributable

Continued on next page

The split of GEC/Schreiber—end of an inspired marriage

BY JASON CRISP

The amicable divorce ending the nine year marriage between **Schreiber Industries**, the furniture company, and **GEC**, Britain's largest electricals group, terminated what had been hailed as an inspired merger.

The joint venture, GEC-Schreiber, consisted of GEC's domestic electrical appliance business, making Hotpoint products, and Schreiber Industries, making domestic furniture. It was formed in 1974 when both businesses were in serious trouble.

GEC owned 62.5 per cent of GEC-Schreiber, with the remaining 37.5 per cent held by the shareholders of the private company, Schreiber Industries, including Mr Chaim Schreiber, the founder and chief executive, his family, and company executives.

Now Hotpoint has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of GEC, while Schreiber Industries is again an independent private company. On June 7 GEC bought back its 37.5 per cent stake in Hotpoint and sold the 62.5 per cent holding in Schreiber Industries back to its original shareholders.

But, as Hotpoint is now much *larger and more profitable* than Schreiber Industries, GEC has paid the Schreiber shareholders £1.5m in cash and 2.5m GEC Ordinary shares, worth £8.2m.

At the time of the merger, British Domestic Appliances—as the GEC subsidiary was then known—was losing market share and had diving profits. Schreiber Industries had a high level of debts and acute cash flow problems following a succession of failures to raise capital.

The merger was to bring advantages to both companies. Mr Chaim Schreiber was made chief executive of the joint venture and brought to BDA his particular management skills and style and a close knowledge of the consumer marketplace. Schreiber Industries gained the backing of GEC's financial strength with its then cash *resources of over £200m.*

But since the merger, disparities between the two arms of the business have grown. In the year to March 1974 Schreiber had made pre-tax profits of £2.9m on sales of £29m while BDA had made £1.67m pre-tax on sales *of £52m over the same period.*

In the financial year just ended the Schreiber side is expected to make a small loss, on sales of just under £40m—at its peak in 1979 it made a profit of £6.6m on a turnover of £74.5m. But, last year Hotpoint made a profit of about £10m.

Although Hotpoint had several difficult periods while part of GEC-Schreiber it now appears to be remarkably healthy. It is thought to have the largest share of the UK white goods market, with Hoover, a major rival, still struggling to regain lost ground. Hotpoint is also one of the most profitable manufacturers of domestic electrical appliances in Europe—most of the others have been making losses.

Mr Schreiber made a number of changes when he took over Hotpoint. In particular, he strove to improve quality, especially that of the after-sales service. Back in 1974, Hotpoint had a terrible reputation for both.

Second, Mr Schreiber made some well-publicised changes in management style which introduced a number of practices used in Schreiber Industries. These included abolishing clocking in and piece rates, staff status for all employees and profit sharing.

Third, he began to establish Hotpoint in new markets by importing new products such as fridge-freezers and then manufacturing in the UK when the volume of business justified it.

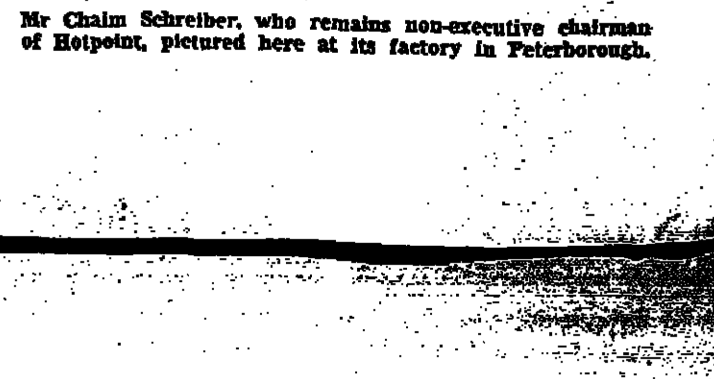
Fourth, he vigorously defended the margins which could be earned by small retail outlets which included taking Comet, the discount electrical and gas appliance retailing chain, to court for alleged "loss-leading" with Hotpoint products.

Even though there is significant over-capacity for white goods production in Europe, Hotpoint has invested £20m in a new plant in Rhyl, North Wales, which was opened last year. It is currently making automatic washing machines and tumble driers.

In common with other UK electrical appliance manufacturers, Hotpoint was hit hard three years ago when there was massive de-stocking at the beginning of the recession. Critics say Mr Schreiber's paternalistic management style resulted in Hotpoint's being harder hit because it delayed cutting production.

In contrast with Hotpoint, Schreiber Industries, after strong growth in the 1970s, has been very severely hit by the recession.

After the de-merger, Mr Schreiber, now 65, remains non-executive chairman of Hotpoint. But he will concentrate on Schreiber Industries.



Mr Chaim Schreiber, who remains non-executive chairman of Hotpoint, pictured here at its factory in Peterborough.

UK COMPANY NEWS

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profits emerged at £732,000 (£656,000) — the extraordinary item included a provision against an investment in International Reporting Information Systems Holdings BV (Netherlands).

Disclosed earnings per share amounted to 8.2p (1p loss) on a net basis and at 10.2p (1p loss) on a nil basis.

Applied Computer

Pre-tax profits of Applied Computer Techniques (Holdings) more than doubled to £2.17m for the year to March 31, 1983, against £1.01m previously, while turnover jumped from £8.37m to £22.78m.

With earnings per 10p share well ahead at 13.04p, compared with 5.63p, the dividend total is being hoisted from 0.7p to 1.3p net by a doubled final of 1p.

The directors say that in the current year, sales are running at more than double last year's figure. Overall, they anticipate a year of dramatic growth in all areas of the business.

Arenson Group

Following the loss incurred by Arenson Group in the year to July 31, 1982 and the unaudited loss reported for the six months to January 31, 1983, the directors have decided not to pay the dividends due on the unquoted preference share capital on August 1, 1983.

They will review the position once the audited results for the year to July 31, 1983 are known.

Earlier this year the company's bankers agreed to provide continuing support under facilities secured by fixed and floating charges over substantially all the group's assets.

Although trading conditions remain difficult, directors are satisfied with the continuing progress in implementing the plans referred to in the interim report.

Argyll Foods

For the year to April 2, 1983 pre-tax profits of Argyll Foods are shown to have risen from £17.3m to £21.4m, an increase of 24 per cent.

It is pointed out the results are based on a combination for the whole year of the results for the former Argyll group and of Allied Suppliers, although the acquisition of Allied Suppliers was only completed in June last year.

The results compare with the combined profits of Argyll and Allied Suppliers, which included adjustments for the interest costs associated with the merger.

Turnover for the year rose from £1.08bn to £1.14bn and operating profits improved by 23 per cent to £24.3m (£19.8m) before interest.

Earnings per 10p share increased from 11p to 14.2p, and a final dividend of 2.5p lifts the net total from 3.25p to 3.75p.

The current year has started well and the chairman views the future with confidence.

Ariel Industries

Manufacturer of industrial fasteners and light engineering products Ariel Industries edged ahead from taxable profits of £27,000 to £29,000 in the year to March 31, 1983, on higher turnover of £8.91m compared with £7.7m.

With earnings per 25p share given as 0.04p (0.02p) the year's dividend is being missed. Last year a final of 0.811p together with an interim of 0.541p was paid.

Tax took £27,000 (£26,000).

Arlen Electrical

Turnover at Arlen Electrical declined from £4.04m to £3.73m in the six months to December 31, 1982 but losses were cut by £169,000 to £179,000 pre-tax.

The directors believe the benefits of the restructuring, outlined in the rights issue document last year, will not be reflected until well into the first half of 1983-84.

Loss per 25p share for the interim period under review emerged at 4.6p (8.95p), pre-extraordinary items.

Arlington Motor

Following a recovery in the first half taxable profits to £506,000, compared with £11,000, Arlington Motor Holdings turned round from pre-tax losses of £90,000 to profits of £1.08m in the year to March 31 1983. Turnover picked up by £12.27m to £67.21m.

The final dividend is being raised from 2.5p to 4p net per 25p share making a higher total of 6.5p (5p). Earnings per share are given as 21.3p (losses 4.6p).

The directors say management accounts for the year to date show profits ahead. There would appear to be limited room for growth in the new passenger car market but there is scope for recovery in the commercial vehicle market and there are some signs that this has started, they say.

The improved results reflect an advance across all divisions they add. In particular there has been a considerable increase in the profitability of new car sales with the dramatic growth in sales of Vauxhall cars as well as a continuing strong performance by Mercedes and VW/Audi.

The finance subsidiaries contributed profits of £13,000 (£21,000), and interest payable came to £919,000 (£1.14m). Tax took £126,000 (£116,000) and there were extraordinary credits of £350,000 (£215,000).

A-R Television

Pre-tax profits of A-R Television, a subsidiary of British Electric Traction, declined from £8.04m to £7.69m for the year to March 31, 1983. The figures included interest receivable of £3.32m, against £3.86m, and a £4.38m share of associate company profits, compared with £4.42m.

Tax accounted for £4.26m (£5.96m).

Ashdown Inv.

Revenue after expenses and interest at Ashdown Investment Trust for the six months to the end of May 1983 moved down from £559,654 to £478,702. The net interim dividend has been held at 2.1p and the directors expect to hold the final at 4.8p.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as slipping from 3.27p to 2.87p. Tax for the period amounted to £162,192 against £199,493.

Net asset value per share increased from 260.2p to 395.8p.

Ashley Industrial

After paying £102,000 compensation, Ashley Industrial Trust has run into a loss of £100,000 for the six months ended March 31 1983, compared with a profit of £114,000 for the half year ended April 30 1982. The compensation was for loss of office to former directors of Iver Film Services.

Net attributable loss came to £115,000 (£104,000 profit) equal to 0.1p (3.78p) per share. Extraordinary charges of £110,000 have been made relating principally to the closure of activities within the turfcare division, including premises at Guildford.

The directors state that the plywood division continued to trade profitably, but profits were affected by continuing losses in autoturfcare and a temporary reversal in Iver Film Services arising from a change in its pattern of distribution.

They expect that both these activities will return to profitability for the current half year. Meanwhile, the interim dividend is being passed.

Asprey & Co.

Taxable profits of Asprey & Co improved by £573,000 to £5.44m for the year to March 31 1983 and the dividend is being effectively increased from 14p to 16p net by a final of 10p.

Turnover advanced from £23.95m to £24.76m—the group's principal activities are that of goldsmith, silversmith, jeweller and antique dealer. Earnings emerged at 62.5p (51.88p adjusted).

Assam-Dooars

A reduction in pre-tax profits from £330,013 to £303,032 is reported by Assam-Dooars Holdings for 1982. After-tax figures fell from £274,894 to £266,023.

Earnings per £1 share slipped from 26.34p to 25.47p, but net dividend is unchanged at 6p net per share.

Assoc. Engineering

Associated Engineering, the 64.4 per cent-owned South African subsidiary of the UK Group, AE, suffered a pre-tax loss of R6.1m in the six months to March 31, 1983, as against a R1.4m profit last time.

The main loss-making subsidiary—a retailer of motor parts—is to be sold. The sale will involve a loss of R5.9m which will be treated as an extraordinary charge in the year-end accounts. A trading loss of R8.7m is forecast for the current full year.

The viability and solvency of the company is to be ensured by a R10m rights issue. This is a compromise arrangement forced on the UK parent by minority shareholders in the South African subsidiary.

Assoc. Fisheries

A sharp increase in fishing losses at Associated Fisheries has been fully offset in the six months to March 31, 1983 by the inclusion of the whole of the group's share of the Government aid extended to the fishing industry last November.

As a result of the £564,000 received under the fishing vessels support scheme, trading profits for the period were up from £329,000 to £694,000, while at the pre-tax level there was an advance from £390,000 to £1m.

On prospects, Mr H. K. FitzGerald, the chairman, predicts that if trading conditions follow their normal seasonal pattern during the summer, and provided no further substantial losses are incurred by group trawlers, last year's pre-tax profits of £1.85m should again be attainable.

Attributable profits improved from £427,000 to £714,000, after tax of £360,000 (£186,000), extraordinary credits of £78,000 (£226,000) and minorities. Earnings per 25p share rose from 1.07p to 3.54p and the interim dividend is maintained at 0.25p net—last year's final was 2p.

Associated Heat

An 11.5 per cent increase from a restated £2.96m to £3.31m in pre-tax profits is reported by Associated Heat Services for the year to March 26 1983. Group turnover was little changed at £36.18m compared with £36.22m.

The results for 1981-82 have been restated prior to management charges, which ceased to accrue after the end of that year. Tax for that period—£1.13m—has been adjusted accordingly. Tax this time was £1.17m.

The total dividend is 9p net with a final of 6p, and absorbs £720,000.

The directors say the marginally lower turnover was due, principally, to the effects of the mild winter weather. Much of the profit improvement has been due to success in controlling costs and maintaining a positive cash flow.

Sir Derek Ezra, the chairman, says it is not feasible to make any forecast of results for the current year because of the continuing uncertainty of the economic scene.

Assoc. Newspapers

Taxable earnings of Associated Newspapers Group increased from £5.38m to £6.99m for the half year to March 31 1983, on turnover up some £20m at £147.6m.

Earnings per 25p share rose by 2.9p to 12p, while the net interim dividend is maintained at 4.5p—last year's total was 10.4p on pre-tax earnings of £11.47m.

First-half taxable earnings included lower associates' contributions of £1.11m (£1.73m) and investment income of £1.48m (£2.22m), but net interest receivable this time of £417,000 (£520,000).

The tax charge was up from £2.62m to £3.35m and after minority credits of £5,000 (£4,000), net earnings came through at £3.65m, against £2.77m. Dividends again absorb £1.37m.

Daily Mail and General Trust holds 49.95 per cent of the company's shares.

Astra Industrial

A fall from £321,000 to £210,000 in pre-tax profits is reported by Astra Industrial Group for the year to April 30 1983. Profits in the engineering and metals division fell from £216,000 to £144,000, but the property and investment division increased its profits from £248,000 to £429,000.

The leisure division incurred losses, however, of £99,000 against £60,000. The directors say this division is now operating profitably and a contribution will be forthcoming in the current year.

The pre-tax figure was after interest charges up from £83,000 to £264,000. There was a tax credit of £47,000 (£75,000). After an extraordinary debit of £30,000 (£85,000), profit available was £227,000 against £311,000. Stated earnings per 10p share fell from 1.06p to 0.52p.

The total dividend is unchanged at 0.525p with a same-again final of 0.4p net.

Atkins Brothers

Taxable profits of knitwear maker Atkins Brothers (Hosiery) slumped from £516,000 to £161,000 in the year to March 31, 1983, on turnover £1.08m down at £10.89m.

The year's dividend is being maintained at 5p net per 25p share with a same-again final of 3.65p.

Tax took £3,000 (£149,000).

Atlantic Assets

Atlantic Assets Trust is holding its dividend at 0.3p net for the year ended June 30 1983. Revenue came to £842,000 against £811,000, before tax of £329,000 (£269,000). Earnings are shown at 0.36p (0.38p). At the year end net asset value was 131p (68.58p) after prior charges at par.

Audiotronic

HIGHER exceptional charges of £91,000, compared with £15,000, pushed pre-tax losses of Audiotronic Holdings up from £266,000 to £320,000 for the year to February 28, 1983.

The result included a £2,000 profit (£320,000 loss) of companies which have ceased trading. Turnover dropped by £5.93m to £2.53m.

There is again no dividend for this distributor of electronic goods — the last payment was in 1979. Loss per 10p share rose from an adjusted 1.4p to 1.9p.

There was a nil tax charge (£28,000 credit) and extraordinary debts of £18,000 (£203,000).

Automated Security

Automated Security (Holdings), the security alarm systems rental concern, advanced from taxable profits of £1.2m to £1.51m in the first half to May 31 1983 on increased turnover of £11.32m against £9.13m.

Earnings per 10p share are given as 3.08p (2.99p)—and 3.06p (2.67p) fully diluted—and the interim dividend is being lifted from 0.35p (adjusted for scrip) to 0.4p. Last year a total of 0.875p (adjusted) was paid from taxable profits of £3.06m.

The group's major activity of security rental continued to make satisfactory progress and it has been extremely active in the security tag field with the introduction from the U.S. of Security Tag products both by its own distributor and its associate Securitag International which is rapidly developing a distributor network in Europe.

Avana Group

Second half pre-tax profits at Avana Group advanced from £6.43m to £8m, and figures for the full year to April 2, 1983 improved from £10m to £13.06m. The final dividend is raised from 3.6p to 4.5p net for an increased total of 7.5p compared with 6p.

Turnover of this food processor—it supplies cakes to Marks & Spencer—rose from £128m to £138.96m. Profits were after all charges, but excluded tax up from £2.09m to £3.99m. The UK share rose from £1.37m to £3.46m. Attributable profits came out at £8.62m compared with £7.55m, and stated earnings per 5p share improved from 22.42p to 25.49p.

The directors say the group continues to show it can cope with difficult trading conditions and further progress can be built on the base of its existing operations. The new acquisition of Lesme will increase the scope of the company's business.

Present trading throughout the group has started well and gives confidence for the year-end result.

Maurice Samuelson examines the reorganisation of Pilkington's UK glass operations

Strengthening of impact on the home market

PILKINGTON glass operations in the UK are to be reorganised in order to strengthen the group's impact on the market. The company's UK sales, badly hit by the recession and imports, are now showing signs of recovery.

The group has announced that its flat and safety glass operations, previously run as separate businesses, are to be combined under a new company, Pilkington Glass.

At the same time, it has taken steps to ensure greater coordination of Pilkington operations on the Continent, including Scandinavia.

The moves also underline Pilkington's bid to raise its income from sales of glass at a time when income from lucrative licensing agreements in many parts of the world, is due to decline as these agreements start to expire.

The new UK company, which began trading on July 1, will embrace the roles of Pilkington Flat Glass, Triplex Safety Glass, Flat Glass Division (Europe).

Although these companies will cease to exist, the Triplex brand name will be retained for automotive and aircraft products.

Mr Anthony Pilkington, group chairman, said that because of the growing importance of added-value products and the overlapping areas of processing in architectural glasses, security glazing and safety glass for the motor trade separate divisions for these products were "somewhat artificial."

Under Pilkington Glass, the merged operations would be divided into basic glass and processing operations.

Basic glass will include the float, rolled, wired, polished wired, and coloured glass products from five factories, three of them at St Helens; one at Doncaster, and the other at Hartley Wood, Sunderland.

Processing operations will include the motor trade toughening and laminating activities at St Helens and Kings Norton, Birmingham, the general trade processing activities at St Helens, UK glass merchant subsidiaries, and all new processing activities.

Mr Pilkington said the new organisation, which was similar to the group's other European operations, would "enable separate objectives to be set and greater concentration of efforts to be directed at each activity."

The new company's first chairman will be Mr Geoffrey Iley, chairman of Safety Glass Europe and Triplex Safety Glass. He will give way on January 1, 1984, to Mr Derek Cook, present head of Pilkington's operation in South Africa.

Until about seven years ago, Pilkington had about 80 per cent of the UK flat glass market. By last year it had only about half of a shrinking market, while imports rose from France, Belgium and other European countries.

Thanks partly to severe rationalisation Pilkington has begun reversing this decline and hopes to push its share back to 55 per cent this year. It once employed 20,000 people. But it has steadily fallen and in the past two years, the workforce was cut by 2,000 to 6,700 (including 1,800 at Triplex. It says the latest reorganisation does not involve further redundancies.

● A survey of 162 UK glass processors shows that 41 per cent suffered a reduced turnover in their last financial year and a third of them lost money.

The report, by ICC Financial Surveys, showed that nevertheless 38 per cent of those surveyed still managed to increase profits and 67 per cent raised payments to directors.

Another report, by the Glass Manufacturers Federation, says that UK demand for glass containers for packaging in 1982 fell about 3 per cent from the previous year, to 6.1bn units.

Mr Alastair Pilkington, the chairman of Pilkington Glass, pictured in the Pilkington Glass factory, St. Helens

B

Baker Perkins

Exceptional costs incurred in the U.S. have hit the profit of Baker Perkins Holdings in the year ended March 31 1983, and it has fallen from £6.6m to £1.64m. But the directors are of the belief that those costs should be ignored when considering the dividend, and they are holding the payment at 5.1p net per share with a final of 3p.

Sales of the group, which makes plant and machinery for the food, chemical and printing industries, moved ahead from £137.8m to £164.96m. Trading profit in the UK came to £4.06m (£3.51m) and overseas companies produced £3.17m (£5.11m). U.S. relocation disruption costs were £2.5m (nil), redundancy and disruption costs £142,000 (£515,000), associates' profits £73,000 (loss £337,000), and interest charged £2.87m (£1.84m).

The major reason for the sharp drop in profit came at Baker Perkins Inc, where there was a swing of some $10m, from a profit in 1981-82 to a loss last year. The biggest factor was the cost arising from moving the bakery machinery business from Michigan to North Carolina.

Orders received totalled £177m, which is an increase of 18 per cent in value and 5 per cent in volume over the previous year. Over one-third in value of the orders was received during the last three months and, therefore, had little effect on the year's results.

At March 31 1983 the value of unexecuted orders was £89m but was rather unevenly distributed among the group companies. The directors do not expect a repetition of the high level of exceptional costs, and these factors "must augur well for a much better result this year." A "useful profit" is expected in the first half of the current year.

Baker's Stores

FOR HALF year ended April 2 1983 profits before tax of Baker's Household Stores (Leeds) rose from £470,865 to £496,722 on turnover of £3.74m (£3.41m). Earnings are shown at 4.77p (4.52p) and the net interim dividend is held at 0.65p.

Last few weeks have shown "satisfactory increase" in trade as weather conditions improved, and directors hope for increased trading profits for the year. The acquisition of two more branches has been agreed and they should be open for Christmas trading. The group sells non-food merchandise.

Bank Leumi (UK)

Satisfactory growth was seen in all areas of business at Bank Leumi (UK) in the six months to June 30, 1983, say the directors, and earnings were at a higher level than for the comparable period of 1982.

Extensive refurbishment to the West End of London branch was completed early this year. A northern office has been opened in Leeds and is progressing satisfactorily.

Baraoora Tea

Pre-tax profits of Baraoora Tea Holdings jumped from £242,198 to £556,041 for 1982 on turnover up from £1.39m to £1.83m.

Tax took £270,047 (£114,569) for earnings per 5p share of 19.86p (8.865p) on a net basis and 21.74p (10.89p) on a nil basis.

The dividend for the year is being held with an interim of 3.5p net and the directors explain that despite the excellent results they have been unable to increase the distribution because of limited sterling funds available.

The remittance from Bangladesh in respect of the group's subsidiary 1982 profits is expected by early 1984, they report. As soon as this has been received the directors will consider payment of a first interim in respect of 1983. This would be in addition to the normal dividend to be considered for payment in July, after 1983 results are known.

Sidney C. Banks

Second-half pre-tax profits at Sidney C. Banks rose from £282,000 to £425,000, and figures for the full year to April 30, 1983 improved from £972,000 to £1.17m. Turnover of this grain merchant and seed specialist increased from £73.04m to £89.72m. The final dividend is raised from 4.5p to 5p for a total up from 6.75p to 7.5p net.

The directors say the harvest has been under way for only a short time, and it is not yet possible to assess fully the quantity and quality of grain that will be available.

During the year the company will consolidate its activities while, at the same time, taking full advantage of any new opportunities which may arise.

Tax for the year was up from £263,000 to £382,000. Stated earnings per 25p share improved from 23.02p to 25.48p.

Barclays higher

In the first half of 1983, pre-tax profits of Barclays Bank rose from £236m to £262m. The amount charged for bad and doubtful debts increased from £115m to £193m.

At the attributable level, profits were up by £13m to £165m, after tax of £75m (£67m) and minorities of £22m (£17m). Earnings per £1 share improved from 44.9p to 48.4p and the net interim dividend is higher at 11.5p (11p)—last year's total was 22p.

The charge for bad and doubtful debts comprised £189m (£138m) for specific provisions; £13m (£16m credit) for general provisions; less £9m (£7m) recoveries of amounts previously written off.

During the period net interest income fell, reflecting lower overall spreads and increasing reliance on more expensive wholesale funds, but commission income improved and overheads were contained.

Most of the group's domestic operations performed well, although Mercantile Credit's performance was adversely affected by the downward trend in interest margins and a higher bad and doubtful debt charge.

The profits contribution of Barclays Bank International was higher than in both halves of 1982 and there was a good recovery in trading.

Barlow Holdings

Increased profits before tax of £3.68m against £1.9m have been shown by Barlow Holdings for the six months to the end of June 1983. Turnover expanded from £2.27m to £3.94m.

The net interim dividend has been held at 1p. In the last full year a total of 4p was paid. Earnings per 10p share for the period under review are shown as improving from 2.13p to 4.78p including 2.66p (0.04p) surplus on investment sales and before extraordinary credits.

Profits before tax included an increased surplus on investment sales of £1.7m against £21,000 and a contribution of £42,000 from Barlow Plantations last time.

Tax took £1.36m (£885,000) and minorities £73,000 (£14,000). Extraordinary profits amounted to £6.79m compared with £1.24m, from the sale of remaining 30 per cent of Barlow Plantations and including amounts previously disclosed in reserves.

Barlows

Following a rise in turnover from £580,870 to £664,900 taxable profits of packager and warehouseman Barlows surged from £45,018 to £99,451 in 1982.

Earnings per £1 share are given higher at 19.7p (10.1p) before extraordinary items and as 10.7p (10.1p) after, and the year's net dividend is being raised from 6p to 8.5p.

Tax took £42,397 (£15,854) and there was an extraordinary debit of £31,005 (£29,164). Current cost adjustments reduced the pre-tax profits to £91,000 (£33,000).

At the halfway stage the company had already increased taxable profits from £21,780 to £48,874 on turnover of £337,396 (£296,933).

A. G. Barr

Pre-tax profits of soft-drink manufacturer A. G. Barr fell from £911,000 to £686,000 for the half-year ended April 30 1983, but the net interim dividend is held at 1.75p per 25p share.

Turnover moved up from £14.65m to £15.36m — the group's products include Tizer. Profits were struck after allowing for lower interest charges of £66,000 (£136,000). Tax took £76,000 (£296,000) and extraordinary debits £279,000 (nil).

Earnings per share emerged at 9.66p (9.74p). Profits for the 1981-82 year totalled £2.8m (£3.28m) and a final dividend of 4.115p (4.615p) was paid.

Bassett Foods

Following a downturn overseas a decrease in pre-tax profits has been shown by Bassett Foods from £2.04m to £1.66m for the year to April 1 1983. Sales slipped from £65.56m to £59.09m, including £8.5m for companies sold in last year's figure.

Last year companies sold showed £328,000 losses.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 2.5p to 2.7625p which increases the total from 3.5p to 3.7625p. Earnings per 25p share were shown as lower at 12.04p against 14.25p.

In the UK companies, profit improvement was achieved both in home and export markets and a strong positive cash flow was generated. UK pre-tax profits were shown as £2.27m £1.96m).

Overseas, contributions to trading profits were made by operations in Australia, France, Germany, U.S., Sweden and the Netherlands. Pre-tax results, however, showed overseas losses of £195,000 against profits of £438,000.

The Dutch manufacturing company returned to profits in the second half, but the directors point out that the operation is being kept under constant review.

Batleys of Yorkshire

On turnover up from £118.19m to £128.32m, Batleys of Yorkshire, wholesale cash and carry, reports an increase from £1.16m to £1.27m in attributable profits after all charges, including tax up from £200,000 to £220,000, for the 52 weeks to April 30 1983.

The final dividend is raised from 1.8p to 1.9p net for a total of 2.4p (2.3p), and stated earnings per 10p share improved from 13.62p to 14.98p basic, and from 9.65p to 10.61p fully diluted.

John Beales

PRE-TAX profits at John Beales Associated Companies more than doubled from £211,000 to £461,000 in the year to March 19, 1983. Turnover of this manufacturer of Marathon underwear and outerwear improved from £10.95m to £12.49m.

The final dividend is increased from 1p to 2p for a total up from 1.5p to 3p net, and the directors say this reflects both the substantial improvement in profits and the group's strong cash position. It also reflects the board's positive assessment of the future.

No tax was again payable, but there was an extraordinary debit of £150,000 against a credit of £66,000. The extraordinary item consists of transfer from capital reserves to revenue reserve. Realised surpluses in revaluation reserves were £86,000 (£115,000).

There was a loss on the sale of freehold properties of £15,000 (£1,000), and goodwill on acquisition of subsidiaries written off was £162,000 (£36,000). Redundancy, closures and reorganisation costs came to £39,000, resulting in a net debit of £150,000 (credit £66,000).

A programme of capital investment is now under way aimed at those customers and products offering the best long-term commercial return.

The board is in the final stages of concluding an agreement with Abbey Hosiery Mills of Nuneaton for the joint purchase of the assets and undertaking of South Knighton dye works of Leicester.

Beecham

An advance in second-half profits from £112.6m to £135.1m left Beecham Group with year-end figures to the end of March 1983, some 17 per cent higher at £237.1m, against £201.9m. Sales rose from £1.41bn to £1.7bn.

After tax of £86.7m (£82.4m) and minorities, attributable profits were up 26 per cent at £149.9m, compared with £119m. Earnings per 25p share were 22.9p (18.22p) on a net basis or 24.64p (19.75p) on a nil dividend basis.

The final dividend is stepped up from 4.3p to 5p net for a total payment of 9.1p (8p), costing £59.6m (£52.3m).

The year's results include for the first time those of J. B. Williams Group and DAP Inc. These, and other acquisitions, increased sales by £64.2m and trading profits by £3.9m, but reduced pre-tax figures by some £1m after allowing for financing costs.

Sir Graham Wilkins, the chairman of Beecham Group —year end taxable profits 17 per cent higher at £237.1m

Exchange rate movements during the year had the effect of increasing overseas companies' sales and pre-tax profits for 1982-83 by £99.8m and £13.5m respectively.

Beechwood Group

In the year ended March 31 1983 turnover of the Beechwood Group has advanced 25 per cent, from £10.91m to £13.65m, and profit before tax has doubled to £401,270 (£200,367). An unchanged final dividend of 1p maintains the total at 1.5p net per share on earnings of 5.9p (2.6p). There is proposed a one-for-10 scrip issue, and it is intended to hold the rate of dividend on the higher capital.

The profit improvement was achieved in spite of the trading conditions and a trading loss of £326,950 in the mechanical engineering division. There is an extraordinary charge of £241,949 for closure costs and related expenditure at Wellfield Engineering and Grainger Hydraulics.

Capital expenditure totalled £983,297 (£1.09m) and for the purchase of more plant a term loan of £500,000 has been made through Barclays.

Benlox

Benlox Holdings, builder and contractor, returned pre-tax profits of £68,000 for the year 1982 from turnover of £6.07m. The figures compare with £48,000 and £1.45m respectively which covered the 10 months to December 31 1981.

Earnings per share moved up from 1.15p to 1.41p pre-extraordinary debits but the dividend is the same at 0.5p net. Mid-year profits were up from £29,000 to £54,000 and the directors believed this progress would be maintained during the second half.

The results of Joshua Bigwood and Son, acquired last June, were "disappointing" due in part to pressure on margins and to the substantial reorganisation following its purchase. In this respect, Benlox is making a claim against the vendors for breach of warranties contained in the purchase agreement.

The directors believe the results of Bigwood will improve during 1983.

Berisfords

Taxable profits of ribbons, trimmings, labels, lampshades and embroidery maker Berisfords fell from £302,000 to £247,000 in the first half to May 20 1983 on turnover ahead by £1.06m at £7.07m.

The interim dividend is being maintained at 1.4p net per 25p share—last year a total of 4.4p was paid from pre-tax profits of £806,000. Earnings per share for the six months are given as 3.9p (6.9p).

Tax took £33,000 (£24,000) leaving attributable profits of £214,000 (£278,000).

The company's year end is being changed to March 31 and the current accounting period will be for the 71 weeks to March 1984.

S. & W. Berisford

Including British Sugar for the first time as a wholly-owned subsidiary, taxable profits of S & W Berisford expanded from £24.42m to £31.62m for the six months ended March 31 1983. Turnover went ahead to £2.07bn, against £1.32bn.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 13.37p (11.74p) and the interim dividend is unchanged at 3p net—last year's final was 6p and the pre-tax figure amounted to £54.74m.

Directors say that British Sugar will make an important contribution to the group's future profitability.

Although conditions in international commodity markets remain difficult, the group's commodity merchanting division produced a "gratifying result." In certain other businesses, notably secondary metals, wool scouring and tanning, the continuing rationalisation programme, increased volume and higher margins have produced improved performances.

After tax of £5.9m (£4.74m), minorities, preference payments, and extraordinary debits of £894,000 (£15,000), the available balance came out at £24.71m (£19.65m).

Berkeley Exploration

Higher pre-tax losses of £1.56m against £1.22m have been produced by Berkeley Exploration and Production, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in July last year. Turnover rose from £81,000 to £101,000.

Losses per share were given as decreasing from 22.19p to 20.06p.

Although the world oil market is going through a period of instability, the directors are confident that demand for gas will lead to profitable development of existing discoveries in the North Sea.

Bespak

Aerosol maker Bespak jumped from taxable profits of £846,000 to £1.8m in the year to April 29, 1983—this compares with a forecast of not less than £1.25m made at the time of the company joining the Unlisted Securities Market in November 1982.

With earnings per 10p share given at 16.7p (7.5p) the dividend is set at 2p net against a forecast of 1.5p.

The company is seeking a full stock exchange listing following the improved profits and balance-sheet performance and market capitalisation accorded by the USM listing.

Mr R. E. Dexter, chairman, says the improvement reflects the benefits of technology and automation enabling larger volumes to be produced without comparable cost increases. Sales of £8.7m (£5.87m) had expanded on all fronts, though the major impact came from the increase in demand from the group's main customer Glaxo, and Schering-Plough in the U.S.

Tax took £50,000 (£60,000) and after extraordinary debits of £84,000 (nil) the atributable profits came to £1.67m (£786,000).

BET pays 10p

With good growth in most sectors, British Electric Traction increased its profits from £66.75m to £710.15m in the year ended March 31 1983. The dividend is lifted by 2p to 10p net per share, with a final of 8.137p. Earnings are shown at 27.1p (17.4p) before extraordinary debits of £5.18m (£1.57m).

A split of the profit shows: consumer and capital electronics £20m (£20.6m); freight and passenger transport £19.2m (£19.5m); services to industry £16m (£14.4m); entertainment and leisure £8.8m (£9.1m); construction, including mining and civil engineering £4.3m (£1m); printing and publishing £3.6m (£2.4m); general investment and property £5.8m (£5.2m), less group costs £7.5m (£5.5m).

Action is being taken to eliminate sections of the business which have produced unsatisfactory or patchy profits, or which do not fit in with the long term planning. The chairman expects the current year's figure to "climb well away" from the plateau upon which profits have rested since the onset of the recession. "The future looks good."

A subsidiary, Boulton and Paul achieved a turnround from a loss of £181,000 to a profit of £3.88m. Earnings were 19p (3.1p) and the ordinary dividend is 3.2p (nil).

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UK COMPANY NEWS

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Continued

Bett Brothers

First half results at Bett Brothers, building and public works contractor, were aggravated by exceptionally wet weather during the winter months and it incurred losses of £320,000 for the first six months to February 28, 1983. In the corresponding period last year, profits of £614,000 were reported.

These results, coupled with the prospect of no improvement in trading conditions, has led the board to withdraw from competitive tendering.

As part of the resulting restructuring of the group's building activities to concentrate on the profitable private housing sector, a management reorganisation has been implemented and a substantial reduction in administration costs is anticipated.

Group turnover for the first half improved from £7.6m to £9.21m and the directors say current estimates indicate that for the year to August 31, turnover should be in the region of £15.5m. Pre-tax profit thereon, after providing for interest charges of approximately £800,000, is estimated at £100,000 reflecting a recovery.

The interim dividend is cut from 1.2p to 1p net—last year's total was 3.1p from pre-tax profits of £1.27m (£1.72m).

D. F. Bevan

D. F. Bevan (Holdings), metal merchant, casting and general engineer and steel stockholder, finished the year to March 31 last £114,000 in the red at the pre-tax level, compared with profits of £67,000 previously. The group showed an improvement in the second six months, compared with the opening half, when it moved £30,000 back into profit.

The dividend is being cut from 1p to 0.25p net — the interim was omitted. Loss emerged at 1.5p (earnings 0.5p) per 5p share.

Turnover for the year declined from £14.58m to £13.56m. Pre-tax figures were struck after interest costs of £333,000 (£363,000) and took in a £4,000 (£3,000) share of associates' losses.

Bio-Isolates

The directors of Bio-Isolates Holdings)—the shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market—says the response to the group's approach for joint venture agreements to produce bulk quantities of protein, and indeed the interest in the group's technology worldwide, has been most encouraging.

At this stage, they add, there appears every prospect of a substantial rate of development for the group, dependent only on the speed with which plants can be installed and commissioned to match the identified protein markets.

In the meantime, the group incurred pre-tax losses of £111,140 in the six months to March 31, 1983. The loss per share was 1.4p. The directors say the results are fully in line with their expectations at this stage of the group's development. The prospectus said the group's first operating profits may be earned in the year to September 30, 1984, and this is still considered to be the case.

J. Bibby & Sons

Improved pre-tax profits of £7.24m compared with £5.57m have been produced by J. Bibby and Sons for the 26 weeks to July 2 1983. Sales of this industrial and agricultural group expanded from £118.72m to £136.19m.

The net interim dividend has been effectively lifted from 1.233p to 2.24p, although the directors say that this should not be taken as an indicator of the increased total which may be declared for the year. Last year a total equivalent to 4.667p was paid, after allowing for a one-for-two scrip.

The directors are confident that the company will be able to achieve a satisfactory increase in the level of profit for the year.

Earnings per 50p share for the six months are shown as rising from an adjusted 6.65p to 8.49p.

Tax amounted to £2.17m (£1.67m). After minorities and extraordinary debits of £182,000 (credits £53,000) the attributable balance emerged ahead from £3.93m to £4.85m.

Birmingham & Dist.

Profits of the Birmingham and District Investment Trust rose from £2.69m to £3.07m for the year ended March 31 1983 after tax of £1.43m, against £1.2m.

Earnings per 10p share are shown as 1.77p (1.54p) and net asset value of this BET Group subsidiary increased from 35.16p to 43p.

Birmid Qualcast

In the 26 weeks to April 30, 1983 taxable profits of Birmid Qualcast picked up from £427,000 to £2.01m, on a slight reduction in turnover from £91.33m to £89.6m. The company's two consumer products divisions were again the principal contributors to group profits.

Unless the company suffers another sharp downtrun in demad, the directors expect it to continue to make steady progress and earn improved profits in the second half. For the 52 weeks to October 30 1982 the group made a pre-tax loss of £1.44m (£1.64m profit).

The net interim dividend is stepped up from 0.1p to 0.33p per 25p share—last year's total was 1p. Half-time earnings per share rose from 0.5p to 2.9p, after tax of £122,000 (£113,000) but before extraordinary credits of £1.67m (£0.34m debits). These were mainly profits on disposal of some land and buildings no longer required and a surplus on the sale of shares in Autocast.

Interest charges for the period dropped from £1.54m to £1.03m.

Birmingham Mint

Despite slightly lower turnover of £9.88m, against £10.92m, pre-tax profits of Birmingham Mint, coin and medal minting, jewellery group, moved ahead from £521,000 to £660,000 for the year ended April 2 1983 and the dividend is maintained at 10.5p net with a same-again final of 7.5p.

Profits included an exceptional credit of £63,000 (nil) and subject to tax of £169,000 (£173,000). There was also an extraordinary credit of £50,000 (nil) and earnings per share are given as 24.1p (17.1p).

The timing and price levels of certain contracts have meant that the current year has started slowly, directors state. Nevertheless, the company believes that the longer-term prospects remain good.

Bishop's Group

Bishop's Group, food wholesaler and retailer, is cutting its dividend from 4p to 3p for the year ended February 26 1983, with a final halved to 1.5p. The directors had raised the interim in the hope that the year would produce a reasonable profit.

In the event there is a trading loss of £106,000, against a profit of £516,000. With an exceptional debit of £270,000, being trading losses of the bakehouse activity being discontinued, the loss before tax is at £376,000.

The directors explain that profits made in the supermarkets were insufficient to cover both the loss by the wholesaling business and the greatly increased unallocated costs, mainly major computer expenses.

The bakery trading losses together with the closing down and capital losses amount to £750,000.

After tax of £65,000 (£90,000) and an extraordinary charge of £478,000—the estimated loss on the realisation of the discontinued bakehouse activity—the year's net loss comes out at £919,000 (profit £426,000). Per share this is equal to 8.4p (earnings 8.11p).

Net assets at February 26 stood at 331p (352p) per share.

Michael Black

ON TURNOVER up from £5.6m to £6.73m, pre-tax profits at Michael Black improved from £494,183 to £526,964 in the year to March 31, 1983.

This wholesale distributor of radio and sound reproduction equipment and other electrical appliances, is paying a total dividend of 3p with a final of 2.5p net. The company's shares are dealt on Unlisted Securities Market. There is a waiver on 500,000 shares.

Tax for the year was up from £223,500 to £266,345, and there was an extraordinary debit of £56,395 this time. Stated earnings per 20p share were down from 7.24p to 6.97p. Allowing for 369,566 additional shares issued since the year-end, earnings per share would be 6.34p.

Black Arrow

A rise of £175,000 to £710,000 in pre-tax profits for the year ended March 31 1983 is reported by Black Arrow Group. For the current half year to September 30 the profit will exceed the £301,000 achieved in the corresponding period of last year, the directors state.

Turnover for 1982-83 came to £8.42m (£7.64m) and comprised leasing and instalment finance £2.4m (£2.11m) office furniture distribution £4.94m (£4.36m), and electrical appliance distribution £1.08m (£1.17m). After tax £334,000 (£217,000), the net profit was £376,000 (£318,000) for earnings of 5.69p (4.81p) per share. A final dividend of 2p lifts the total to 3p (2.75p).

Peter Black Hldgs.

On turnover up from £40.31m to £50.63m, Peter Black Holdings reports pre-tax profits up from £3.37m to £3.48m in the year to April 30 1983. The final dividend is effectively raised from 1.635p to 1.75p for a total of 2.625p compared with an adjusted 2.475p.

The directors say the present profit margin is the result of the high cost of investment in training, machinery and additional facilities which are necessary to implement the company's expansion.

They say al parts of the company's business have increased their volume, and there has been an acceleration of the rate of progress of expansion into related product areas.

Tax for the year was down from £1.05m to £816,000. Stated earnings per share improved from an adjusted 14.49p to 16.63p.

Peter Black Holdings manufactures footwear and luggage.

Blundell-Permoglaze

Despite an increase in turnover from £13.24m to £15.95m, pre-tax profits of Blundell-Permoglaze Holdings dropped from £477,391 to £456,642 in the half year to April 30, 1983.

Mr Robert White, the chairman, says, however, that be is anticipating a performance in the second half comparable to the corresponding period of 1981-82, thus maintaining profits at last year's level of £2.02m pre-tax.

Although earnings per 25p share of this paint manufacturer and supplier to the building industry were down from 4.7p to 4.2p, the interim dividend is maintained at 1.6p net on capital increased by last year's rights issue.

Attributable profits for the half year rose from £297,533 to £327,832, after tax of £165,000 (£175,000), minority credits of £37,018 (£4,010 debits) and the preference dividend of £828 (same).

John Booth & Sons

After reporting first-half losses of £114,613, John Booth & Sons (Bolton), structural and welding engineer, has swung back with second-half profits of £202,000. Pre-tax figures for the year to March 31 1983 show profits of £88,000 compared with losses of £321,000.

A dividend of 1p (nil) is being paid.

Group turnover for the year was up from £7.69m to £8.97m. There was a tax credit of £3,000 (£243,000) but extraordinary debits took £21,000 (£11,000). Stated earnings per 25p stock unit was 10.83p against a 7.74p loss.

Charles Booth

No interim dividend has been declared by Charles Booth for the half-year to the end of June 1983, but the directors expect to resume payments early in 1984. Pre-tax profits of this USM property developer amounted to £59,000, with total income at £368,000 including interest receivable of £150,000. Total expenditure came to £309,000.

Earnings per 5p share are shown as 0.17p.

The merger with New England Estates has taken the company further into commercial and industrial property development, say the directors. They now believe it would be appropriate to change the name of the company to New England Properties.

Bootham Engineers

Bootham Engineers Group showed reduced losses in the half year to April 30 1983 with a net loss of £51,000, compared with £146,000. After adjustment for taxation and an extraordinary item the loss attributable to shareholders is reduced to £2,000 compared with £65,000 in 1982. The directors have decided not to declare an interim dividend. No interim was paid last year but a final of 6p per £1 share was declared.

Mr John Rymer, chairman, is encouraged by improvements in both turnover and trading profit. He notes that the group made a sound recovery in the second half of last year, and is confident that a similar performance can be achieved in 1983. He therefore expects "to be able to report a Group profit for the whole year."

BPB Industries

Increased housebuilding in the UK was behind the improvement in pre-tax profits from £56.5m to £65.43m at BPB Industries for the year to the end of March 1983. Sales of this group which makes gypsum, plaster and plasterboard expanded from £405.77m to £465.85m.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 6p to 7p which raises the total from 10.5p to 12p. Earnings per 50p share were shown as rising from 37.5p to 44.9p. A one-for-one scrip issue is proposed.

Further improvement in UK results are forecast by the directors, and a return to profits in Canada is expected in the current year. Second half losses in Canada for the period under review continued at the same rate as those of the first period. During the year ahead the directors expect some reduction in profit in France.

Bradford Property Tst.

An increase from £7.3m to £7.9m in pre-tax profits is reported by the Bradford Property Trust for the year to April 5, 1983. The surplus from property rentals rose from £2.37m to £3.01m.

Profit from dealing companies' property sales was £4.38m against £4.03m and the profit from investment companies' property sales was up from £48,022 to £53,962. Gross income totalled £7.91m compared with £7.3m. Associate losses were higher at £9,153 against £3,262.

The final net dividend is raised from 3p to 3.2p for a total of 5.5p (5p). Stated earnings per 25p share improved from 15.45p to 15.97p.

If the capital employed in the company's business as at April 5, 1983, were adjusted to take into account the directors' opinion of the market value of its properties, before tax, the net assets attributable to each ordinary share would be 352p per share.

Braithwaite

After an unchanged first half, with pre-tax profits of £403,000 against £401,000, Braithwaite and Company Engineers, bridge and constructional engineer, finished the March 31, 1983, year ahead from £929,167 to £1.02m. Turnover rose to £11.02m, compared with £9.53m.

After tax of £204,600 (£85,500) earnings per £1 share are shown as 30p (30.9p) and the dividend is lifted to 9.1p (8.1p) despite a same-again final payment of 5.1p. Retained profits came through at £563,915 (£616,914).

Braham Millar

Turnover of Braham Millar Group, mechanical engineer, went ahead from £7.32m to £8.96m and taxable profits expanded from £60,000 to £384,000.

Earnings per 10p share are shown as 2.7p, compared with 0.8p and the total dividend is lifted from 0.6p to 1p net with a final payment of 0.6p.

Profits for the year were struck after depreciation of £174,000 (£139,000) and subject to tax of £40,000 (£46,000 credit).

There were also extraordinary debits of £30,000 (£640,000 credits) and net asset vlue per share is given as 55.3p (54.1p).

Brasway

After reaching breakeven level at half time, Brasway has plunged into losses of £388,753 against previous profits of £713,027 for the year to April 30 1983. Turnover of this iron and steel scrap processor, and tube and bright bar manufacturer, fell from £23.83m to £16.32m.

The final dividend has been passed, which leaves the interim of 1p as the total for the year, against an adjusted 2.77p previously. Losses per 10p share are shown as 4.81p against profits of 12.89p.

The directors say that demand for the company's products is rising at a satisfactory rate and they are quietly optimistic regarding this year's results.

They add that demand fell away at the end of 1982 with a consequent severe squeeze on margins leading to severe losses. Substantial bad debts were also encountered due to business failures consequent on the recession.

They say that this position turned round in March and April 1983 and this encouraging trend has continued this year to date.

Bremar Trust

Struck after an exceptional debit of £50,000, pre-tax profits of Bremar Trust emerged at £357,525 for the nine months to end-December, 1982. Turnover totalled £34.35m. The figures compare with profits of £441,678 and turnover of £30.96m for the 12 months to March 31, 1982.

Earnings emerged at 2.23p (2.85p) per share on a basic and fully diluted basis.

Agreement has been reached for the acquisition of licensed deposit taker R. Raphael and Sons. Consideration will be satisfied by the issue of 1.02m new Bremar shares on the basis of five Bremar shares for each Raphael share.

Agreement has also been reached to exercise the option to acquire the outstanding shares in P. N Look Service Stations owned by Mr R. J. Frost, Bremar's chief executive.

Consideration for the exercise of the option will be the issue of 1m new Bremar shares. Following the allotment of these shares Mr Frost will be interested in approximately 18.1 per cent of Bremar's share capital.

Brengreen rights

Taxable profits of Brengreen (Holdings), industrial and commercial cleaner, improved by 95 per cent to a record £1.69m for the year to April 2, 1983, and the total dividend is being lifted by 0.2p to 1p net per 10p share by an increased final of 0.55p.

A rights issue on a one-for-four basis at 63p per share is also proposed to raise approximately £5m net. Although present borrowing facilities of the group are adequate for its immediate requirements, the directors say it should continue to have available sufficient funds to enable it to take advantage of the opportunities for new business.

They add that they intend to maintain the dividend on the enlarged share capital.

Group turnover for 1982-83 rose from £24.65m to £31.13m and at the trading level profits advanced to £2.5m, compared with £1.24m previously. Tax took £168,000 (nil).

Earnings per share emerged at 4.75p (3.01p).

Brentnall Beard

Brentnall Beard (Holdings) is proposing to change its name to Windsor Securities (Holdings).

Brickhouse Dudley

Pre-tax profits of Brickhouse Dudley are shown to have risen from £1.28m to £1.45m during the year to March 31 1983 after including a £154,368 contribution to trading figures from E. W. Avent from August 1982.

The effect on pre-tax results after Avent interest, and interest on the purchase consideration was "broadly neutral." Group turnover expanded from £27.61m to £33.72m with £3.95m coming from Avent.

Pre-tax figures were after allowing for interest charges of £425,000 (£41,000). Tax took £444,000 (£337,000) and extraordinary debits £96,000 (£77,000).

Earnings per share emerged at 6.52p (6.3p) and the net dividend is the same at 3.2p, the final being 2.25p.

The directors say they are encouraged by the "modest" increase in profits and add that there are signs in specific sectors that demand is increasing. They expect the current year to be another testing one—the group supplies materials to the building and civil engineering industry.

Bridgend Processes

The directors of Bridgend Processes say proposals are being formulated for a capital re-organisation which would involve the refinancing of the company and will include the injection of new share capital.

In the meantime, heavier losses of £244,691, compared with £221,254, are reported for 1982. Sales rose from £1.05m to £1.14m. The net loss was £224,691 (£118,582 profit, which included extraordinary credits of £339,836). The loss per 5p share was again 0.6p.

The directors are required to restrict the group's borrowings to three times the aggregate of the company's paid up share capital and its reserves. On the basis of 1981, limit is £962,766, compared with borrowings at June 17 1983 of £353,945. Shareholders are being invited to sanction borrowings up to a maximum of £500,000. This will enable the company to operate at present levels.

Bristol Post

PROFITS BEFORE tax of the Bristol Evening Post declined by £102,000 to £1.85m during the year to end-March 1983, but the dividend total is being increased by 0.25p to 12p net per 25p share —last year's payment included a 3p special anniversary dividend.

Net external sales totalled £34.28m (£31.86m). By division, pre-tax figures were made up as to newspaper publishing and printing £405,000 (£649,000), retail activities £652,000 (£591,000), features and crossword agencies £56,000 (£65,000), transport and vehicle repair £52,000 (£65,000), property rental income £614,000 (£461,000) and sundry services £6,000 debit (£27,000 debit). Interest and dividends received amounted to £75,000 (£146,000).

Attributable profits emerged at £801,000 (£849,000) and earnings amounted to 19.61p (20.78p) per share.

The Bristol United Press subsidiary is to have the Silver Street site developed which should result in a capital value comfortably in excess of the building cost plus the estimated land value of £3.25m.

Bristol Stadium

A swing round from a loss of £28,000 to a pre-tax profit of £102,000 is reported by Bristol Stadium for 1982. The dividend is raised from 0.75p net to 0.9p per 5p share.

Turnover of the company, which in 1982 held 129 (126) greyhound meetings, improved from £0.95m to £1.15m. Profits were struck after general betting duty of £16,000 (£28,000) and investment income of £27,000 (£24,000).

Brit-Am Film

For the year 1982 the British & American Film Holdings group increased its profit from £200,406 to £295,395, and the dividend is lifted to 3.75p (3.31p) with a final of 2.5p. Earnings are shown at 6.09p (5.31p) and at 7.21p (9.65p) when including the unconsolidated subsidiaries. A profit on sale of investments of £175,765 has been taken direct to reserve.

At December 31 the market value of the listed investment portfolio was £5.06m and by the end of May this has moved up to £5.31m. Unlisted investments at directors' valuation were £594,785, taking into account the £500,000 stake in the new company First Leisure Corporation.

The group's steady progress should contioue in the current year, the directors state.

British Benzol

Progress has continued in the year ended March 31 1983 for British Benzol Carbonising. Profits before tax have risen from £183,000 to £284,000 and the deficit on reserves has been reduced materially. Shareholders' funds are up to £2.05m. Conditions are expected to remain difficult but the directors are confident that improving trends will materialise during the current year.

Sales in 1982-83 came out at £8.2m (£8.59m). Attributable profit was £226,000 (£156,000) and earnings 1.6p (same) per share.

British Building

Pre-tax profits of British Building and Engineering Appliances recovered from £52,273 to £201,642 for the year to March 31 1983 and the dividend is being partly restored to 1.75p (1p) net per 25p share by a final of 1p (0.5p).

Sales totalled £3.31m (£2.65m). Tax took £91,860 (added £51,241), leaving earnings per share at 9.1p (8.6p).

B & C Shipping

Following a rise in second half taxable profits from £17.03m to £20.44, ship and aircraft operator British & Commonwealth Shipping advanced from £28.31m to £36.83m in 1982. Turnover for the year moved ahead by £4.16m to £349.63m.

Earnings per 50p share are given as 55p (46.5p adjusted for one-for-10 scrip) and the final dividend is being raised from 6.82p (adjusted) to 8.5p, making a higher total of 15.5p (12.27p adjusted).

The directors say that although it is too early to make firm predictions for the current year, they predict an improvement in pre-tax profits.

Operating profits rose from £16.31m to £19.7m, but this masked a fall by the shipping activities from profits of £359,000 to losses of £2.62m and an increased provision and special depreciation against ships of £7m (£4.29m).

Taxable profits were struck after interest payable of £11.31m (£11.48m) and included investment income of £16.24m (£13.51m) and net associate profits of £12.19m (£9.96m). Tax took £12.88m (£7.87m) and after extraordinary credits of £450,000 (£1.15m) the attributable profits emerged at £20.03m (£17.73m).

British Dredging

Trading profits of British Dredging were little changed at £262,000, against £268,000, but after redundancy costs and losses of associates since sold, the taxable figure for 1982 came out down from £82,000 to £22,000.

Loss per 25p share works out at 0.81p (0.47p earings) but the dividend is doubled to 1p (0.5p) net.

Turnover of this dredger and supplier of sand and gravel, building systems and structural engineer, fell by £1.17m to £8.28m.

Trading profits are well ahead in the first four months of the current year and directors believe there are prospects of an improved trading climate in the future.

British Dredging Aggregates and BDC Concrete Products, the main profit earning companies, both experienced a severe shortfall in demand for their products, with a consequent drop in both volume and margins.

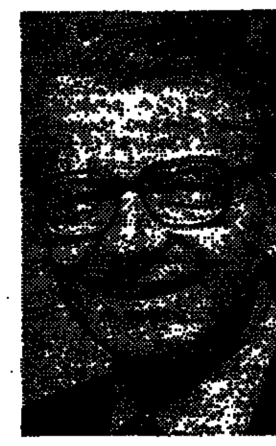
Both companies have improved their performances since the year end, and in the first four months, "are comfortably ahead of last year's profits."

Tax took £157,000 (£11,000) and there were extraordinary credits of £178,000 (£74,000).

BP first quarter

First quarter 1983 net profits of British Petroleum fell from £91m last time to £74m. However, when the result is adjusted to take account of the lower cost of replacing oil stocks, profits were £201m—up from £102m a year earlier.

The period was marked by a strong performance in the North Sea, offset by falling oil prices and weak demand for refined oil products. Since March, the oil



British Petroleum chairman, Mr Peter Walters, who reported a £17m fall in net profits for the first quarter of 1983

market has become more stable following the London meeting of OPEC.

BP's high level of North Sea production during the quarter brought an operating profit for the "upstream" oil and gas businesses of £303m, against £252m in the same period last year. BP incurred production taxes of £613m worldwide during the quarter, including £521m in the UK.

Replacement cost losses in "downstream" oil refining and marketing were cut from £114m in the first quarter last year to £15m this year. At the same time, losses in chemicals were cut from £41m to £15m.

A poorer quarter for BP's American affiliate, Sohio, was masked by the strengthening of the dollar against sterling. As a result, Sohio's contribution to the group profit rose slightly from £110m in the first quarter last year to £113m this year.

First quarter earnings per share were down from 5p to 4.1p.

British Land

Profits before tax of the British Land Company rose by £1.39m to £7.71m for the year to March 31, 1983 (they were £1m ahead midyear) and the dividend is being lifted by 0.75p to 1.25p net—not less than 0.5p had been forecast.

The surplus was struck after charging interest of £13.76m (£11.49m). Earnings pere 25p share emerged at 6.7p (5.9p).

The chairman says the spread and mix of the group's property and trading assets continue to prove a successful formula for expansion. He adds that its stance of avoiding major building commitments, thus conserving resources, is the right policy to allow scope for expansion into other areas.

Total value of the group's investment properties on an open market basis is £259m and the book value of properties held by dealing subsidiaries amounts to £31m, against a market value of £40m.

Net borrowings totalled £119m, reflecting long-term funding for the group's U.S. activities. The debt/property ratio remains at 40 per cent.

British Steam

After allowing for losses of £706,000 in the civil engineering company, which is being sold, profits before tax of the British Steam Specialities Group fell from £2.18m to £706,000 in the year ended March 31 1983.

Earnings are down from 12.4p to 1.1p, but the dividend is held at 5.5p net, with a final of 3.5p. The profit included £2.19m (£2.68m) from the continuing businesses—manufacturing and supplying pipeline equipment—and was after £779,000 (£517,000) finance charges.

The directors explain that Lane Brothers (Mansfield), the civil engineering company, incurred contract losses "of such magnitude" that fundamental corrective action was essential. Terms have been agreed, subject to contract, for a "substantial national contractor" to purchase Lane for a nominal consideration. The group accounts include the full amount of trading losses and other costs associated with the disposal.

After tax £574,000 (£645,000) and extraordinary debit £443,000 there is a net loss of £314,000 (profit £1.54m). Dividends absorb £680,000.

British Tar

Second half profits of British Tar Products have made up the ground lost at halfway, and amount to £1.05m for the full year to March 31 1983 compared with £1.04m. The final dividend is 1.875p for a net total of 2.4p (2.2p).

After tax £334,000 (£251,000) and minorities £5,000 (£4,000), the net attributable profit came out at £714,000 (£788,000 subject to extraordinary debit £292,000). Basic earnings were 3.6p (3.97p) and fully diluted 3.37p (3.72p).

Broadstone Invest.

Pre-tax revenue of Broadstone Investment Trust increased from £784,000 to £995,000 for the half year to June 30 1983. Tax charge was £83,000 higher at £358,00 and earnings per 20p share rose from 3.58p to 4.52p.

Net asset value per share jumped from 270.8p to 447.1p, after prior charges at par.

In view of the proposed unitisation, no interim dividend is declared. If the proposals are approved by members, a dividend is to be paid on September 23 1983 equal to 90 per cent of the company's distributable income for the period from January 1 1983 to August 30 1983, rounded down to the nearest 0.1p per share.

Brooke Tool

For the six months ended March 31 1983 taxable profits of Brooke Tool Engineering (Holdings) advanced from £157,100 to £191,800 on slightly lower turnover of £4.22m (£4.37m).

There is again no interim dividend, but a final payment will be considered when full-year results are known, directors state.

After a tax credit of £5,100 (nil) and minorities £2,100 credit (nil) earnings per 25p share are shown as 1.8p (1.4p).

Results include certain overhead costs largely attributable to the machine tool division which will not incur in the second half.

Bromsgrove Casting

Turnover of Bromsgrove Casting & Machining amounted to £4.08m against £3.62m and pre-tax profits fell from £171,771 to £139,823 in the year to May 31 1983.

However, the total dividend is being held at 2.25p with a same again final payment of 1.5p net.

Brown & Jackson

With a rise in second half taxable losses from £908,000 to £1.08m, building and civil engineering contractor Brown and Jackson ended 1982 with losses of £1.29m, compared with £861,000. Turnover for the 12 months fell from £144.61m to £126.54m.

Losses per 20p share are given as 9.06p (3.26p), after tax of £583,000 (£32,000 credit), and the year's ordinary and preference dividends are being missed. Last year the interim was omitted, but a final of 0.25p was paid.

The directors say all the major trading subsidiaries remaining in the group have traded profitably in the first quarter of 1983 and they consider that with the benefits of rationalisation the group should show a marked recovery in the current year.

Brown & Tawse

In the second half Brown & Tawse was affected by having to provide for stock losses on tubular products following a sharp reduction in prices by British Steel, and having to depreciate buildings, as required by the Companies Act 1981. It lost some of the ground gained at the half-way stage, but still recorded profits ahead from £3.22m to £3.55m for the year ended March 31 1983. Stockholding and processing accounted for £3.09m (£2.47m) and plant sales, boiler repairs and ironmongery for £460,000 (£750,000).

In spite of expenditure of £2m on acquisitions, the liquid position remains healthy and the strength of the balance sheet is improved further. Net assets per share were 141p (135p). The dividend is up from the equivalent of 3.5p to 3.85p, the final being 3.15p.

N. Brown Inv.

A similar performance to last year, with pre-tax profits again around the £3m mark, is reported by direct mail order concern, N. Brown Investments, for the 52 weeks to February 26 1983.

Following half-year profits of £1.01m (£1.02m) the company turned in full year pre-tax figures of £3.01m, against £3.07m previously. Turnover rose from £30.05m to £34.92m, including VAT of £3.59m (£3.07m).

The year's dividend is unchanged at 6p with a same-again final of 4p net. After tax of £1.33m (£1.32m) earnings per 20p share slipped from 13.92p to 13.37p. There was also an extraordinary loss of £197,000 (£119,000 gain).

Sales in the current year to date are running ahead of 1982. The directors, however, say it is not possible to make any forecast, although they express the cautious view that profits growth will not be easy to achieve this year.

Brownlee

From the "sound base" of the interim position, sustained progress, aided by a mild winter, has enabled Brownlee to turn in a greatly improved performance for the year ended March 26. 1983.

This Glasgow-based timber merchant is raising its dividend from 3.7p to 4.3p net (with a final of 2.8p) and holders registered June 30 will receive a 1-for-2 scrip.

Excluding the associated companies, turnover rose by £4.7m to £28.59m and profit before tax almost doubled, from £785,000 to £1.52m. Share of the associates was £30,000 against a loss of £323,000 in 1981-82.

The increase in profit reflected close control of labour, material and other costs. Tax charge was up from £108,000 to £467,000, a rate of 30 per cent because of reduction in stock relief. After extraordinary charges of £25,000 (£22,600) and cost of dividends £461,000 (£397,000), there was £568,000 (£258,000) retained.

Earnings for Brownlee are shown as 9.9p (6.3p) and for the associates 0.1p (loss 2.8p).

John Brown dives

Pre-tax losses of £8.61m against profits of £14.19m have been incurred by John Brown, engineer and construction group, for the year to March 31 1983. No dividend is being paid for the year—last year's total was 4.25p net.

Turnover fell from £680.81m to £643.88m. Tax took £1.34m against £4.29m, and after extraordinary debits up from £9.16m to £16.73m, there was a loss per share of 7.6p against earnings of 8.6p. Net asset value per share was down from 87p to 64p.

The directors say negotiations with Hawker Siddeley over the possible disposal of John Brown Engineering are continuing. If concluded, the disposal will result in a substantial extraordinary debit in the current year's accounts, but also in the elimination of a significant proportion of the group's total indebtedness.

Sir John Mayhew-Sanders has resigned as chairman and chief executive. Sir John Cuckney has been appointed chairman, and Mr Allan Gormly has been appointed a director and group managing director.

A profit analysis shows: engineering and construction £9.48m (£14.41m); industrial products £11.29m loss (£1.77m profit); gas turbines £1.27m (£1.77m); general engineering and miscellaneous £917,000 loss (£86,000 loss). Corporate charges less income £7.16m (£3.68m). The industrial products figures includes profits of £7.48m (£1.66m) of Olofsson Corporation.

Brown Shipley

Profits of merchant banker, insurance broker Brown Shipley Holdings moved ahead from £2.24m to £2.62m for the year ended March 31 1983, after tax of £1.15m, compared with £883,000. Turnover rose from £7.69m to £9.43m.

The dividend is stepped up to 7.75p (7p) net per £1 share with a final of 5p and directors intend to declare an interim of 3.5p in November, on account of 1983-1984, to reduce disparity. They add that this does not indicate any intention to increase the total distribution.

Brunner Inv. Trust

Net earnings of Brunner Investment Trust rose by £26,000 to £556,000 for the six months to May 31, 1983, or from 1.66p to 1.74p per 25p share. Investment income improved from £1.08m to £1.19m.

The interim dividend is lifted from 1.45p to 1.7p net and the directors expect to at least maintain last year's final of 1.9p. A one-for-one scrip issue is proposed.

Net asset value per share showed an advance from 104.7p to 149.3p at the interim stage.

Brunning Group

Turnover of the Brunning Group advertising agency advanced only marginally from £43.11m to £43.68m for the year to end-March 1983 but at the pre-tax level profits more than trebled from £203,000 to £624,000.

With earnings up from 4.4p to 11.9p per 25p share the dividend total is being stepped up from 4.375p to 4.725p net by a final of 2.8p.

The directors say they are committed to a programme of planned growth which they hope will be reflected in increasing profits and dividends. This will come as a result of "controlled expansion."

The group is in a "strong" financial position and had a credit balance at the bank of over £1.3m at year-end.

A. F. Bulgin

A sharp advance in pre-tax profits from £390,000 to £759,000 is reported by A. F. Bulgin and Co. maker of electronic and electrical components, for the year to January 31 1983. The directors look for a further improvement in the current 12 months.

While earnings per 5p share more than doubled from 0.73p to 1.49p, the dividend is maintained at 1.35p net, with a same-again final of 0.77p.

Turnover was almost £1m higher at £5.96m. After tax of £341,000 (£185,000) net profits were ahead from £206,000 to £417,000.

Bullough over £3m

A profit rise from £2.32m to £3.06m for the half year ended April 30 1983 is announced by Bullough, the engineer and furniture maker. Turnover was ahead by £3.34m to £25.28m.

Earnings are shown at 9.54p (7.59p) and the interim dividend is effectively lifted from 2.35p to 3p net. Most of profit increase was the result of useful contributions from the newly acquired companies and elimination of losses by selling a subsidiary. The second half is expected to produce "a somewhat higher" profit than the first.

Bulmer & Lumb

A slump in pre-tax profits from £571,638 to £14,731 has been shown by worsted spinner Bulmer & Lumb (Holdings) for the year to the end of March

Continued on next page

Royal Bank of Scotland streamlining claims a victim

Williams and Glyn's name to go

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN AND MARK MEREDITH

The name of one of Britain's oldest clearing banks—Williams and Glyn's—is to disappear in the major reorganisation by the Royal Bank of Scotland Group. The group, which includes both the Royal Bank of Scotland (600 branches) and Williams and Glyn's (300 branches), decided on the reorganisation to reduce overheads and streamline the management of what will become a unified High Street bank in the UK.

The Royal Bank was the subject of two conflicting takeover bids in 1981 from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered Bank. Neither succeeded once the matter had been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Williams and Glyn's, a combination of Williams Deacon's Bank (founded in 1771) and Glyn, Mills Bank (founded in 1753), has been one of the more innovative of the UK clearers, perhaps because of its small size. Customers of the bank are said to be quite loyal and it is not yet known how they will react to the loss of the traditional English name.

Royal Bank acquired Williams Deacon's in 1929, at the height of the depression, after a number of its Lancashire clients in the cotton industry collapsed. A decade later it acquired Glyn, Mills, a private family run bank.

The merger will be implemented through a private Act of Parliament, probably during 1985. It will create a single bank with assets of £9.2bn—still only around a quarter the asset size of Lloyds Bank, the smallest of the Big Four clearers. The combined group will have 16,000 staff and 900 branches in England, Scotland and Wales.

The name over the door will be Royal Bank of Scotland Group, but executives predict that the shortform of "Royal Bank" is more likely to stick.

Mr Sidney Proctor, group chief executive and former head of Williams and Glyn's, says the merger has been planned since 1979 and has been a key objective of the group.

While important cost saving may be achieved by the union of the two banks, the merger has had to take on board the political realities of maintaining the direction of the bank from Edinburgh while accepting the commercial realities of a high operational profile in London.

The London office, to be headed by a chief general manager, will look after such areas as treasury and international business and day-today interbank dealings.

The chief general manager will also take over much of the commuting between London and Edinburgh—a cause of great fatigue for many a senior executive in the group. The London manager has not been selected yet and will be announced later this year. Mr Proctor is planning to retire in March 1985, before the merger is complete.

Mr Proctor has seen the group through the trauma which followed the Monopolies Commission rejection of the unwanted takeover bid from the Hongkong and Shanghai and the Royal's desire to merge with Standard Chartered.

The takeover controversy put a heavy dent into bank morale, but drove home the importance of the bank to the Scottish economy.

Signs of renewed confidence have emerged with the rejuvenation of the Royal's corporate banking activity and its recent formation of a Delaware holding company to gather intelligence for a possible U.S. bank acquisition.

Mr Proctor has ordered a series of nine working parties to map out future strategy in all aspects of the bank's operations.

In staff terms, as many as 3,000 employees could go over the next four years. An initial 1,000 will lose their jobs through overlapping functions and an additional 1,500 to 2,000 could go during the next few years as the group makes use of more advanced electronic banking technology.

But with a natural "wastage" of 1,200 employees each year, the bank does not fear a difficult time in trimming its numbers.

An essential element of the merger will be the marriage of two different software programs between the Royal and Williams and Glyn's. Both banks use IBM for their hardware systems, but an extensive system of black boxes has had to be installed to co-ordinate the transfer of information between the software operations in areas such as cash dispensing and clearing.

Some £5m is being spent on the electronic tie-up, but this should pay its own way in time through savings on duplication.

B

Continued

1983. The directors point out that the slightly better than breakeven position follows losses at halftime—these amounted to £278,000, compared with interim profits previously of £339,000.

Turnover for the year moved up from £27.38m to £29.82m.

The directors say that an improvement in trade together with lower interest rates, a more realistic value of the pound, the advantage of modern plant and a strong balance sheet justify more optimism for the current year.

In the circumstances they recommend drawing on reserves to maintain the final dividend of 2.17p which holds the total at 3.82p net.

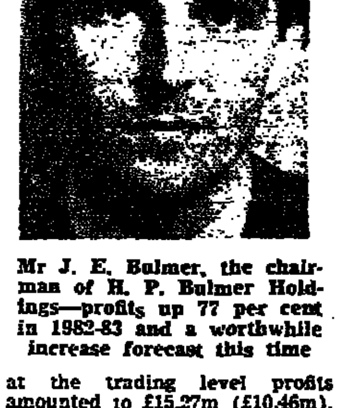
Earnings per 20p share are shown as 2.04p (5.54p).

H. P. Bulmer

For the year to April 29, 1983 pre-tax profits of cider maker H. P. Bulmer Holdings totalled £13.32m, a 77 per cent increase over the previous 53 weeks' £7.51m, and the directors are confident that the group will achieve a "worthwhile" increase in profits in the current year.

The dividend for the past year is being stepped up from an adjusted 2.52p to 4.2p net per 5p share by a final if 2.34p.

Group sales advanced by 25 per cent to £89.38m (£71.32m) and



Mr J. E. Bulmer, the chairman of H. P. Bulmer Holdings—profits up 77 per cent in 1982-83 and a worthwhile increase forecast this time

at the trading level profits amounted to £15.27m (£10.46m), with £13.75m (£8.86m) coming from the cider division.

Pre-tax figures were struck after deducting £1.14m (£1.89m) interest charges, exceptional debits of £198,000 (£695,000) and £618,000 (£361,000) employees' deferred profit-sharing plan.

Earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items, emerged at 19.64p (11.6p).

Group capital expenditure in 1982-83 totalled £8.3m (£5.5m) and planned capital expenditure for the current year is £11.8m.

Burco Dean

Despite an exceptional credit of £173,000, taxable losses of Burco Dean, manufacturer of domestic appliances, kitchen furniture and security systems, increased from £254,000 to £269,000 for the six months ended March 31 1983. Turnover was down from £11.08m to £9.42m.

Pre-tax figure was after interest of £172,000 (£227,000), but included associates share of profits amounting to £54,000 (nil). There is no tax charge.

There is a nominal interim dividend of 0.1p (nil).

While other divisions produced profits, the kitchen furniture division continued to make losses, but major reorganisation is in progress, directors state.

This division is unlikely to return to profits until the 1983-84 year, by which time all production will be concentrated in the group's Fleetwood factory.

B. & Hallamshire

On capital increased by the rights issue, and against at least 7.5p forecast, Burnett and Hallamshire Holdings is paying a final dividend of 9.5p. This makes 17.5p for the year ended March 31, 1983, compared with 14p. On sales up from £161.9m to £235.55m, the profit before tax has risen by £8.37m to £30m. A 1-for-1 scrip issue is proposed.

The profit was struck after interest £5.36m (£2.02m) and associated losses of £1.92m (profits £70,000). The net available came out at £19.63m (£13.95m) after tax £8.2m (£7.17m), minorities £1.18m (£346,000) and an extraordinary debit £1m (£179,000). Earnings are given as 125.3p (112.5p) per share.

Mr George Helsby, chairman, says in terms of resources, managerial or financial, the company is at least as strong as at any time during the last 15 year period of "phenomenal expansion." He predicts further substantial growth in the current year and beyond.

The company is to purchase for $7.6m the remaining 20 per cent of BCDC, a real estate development corporation incorporated in California. The directors believe it to be in the company's best interest to consolidate its control over BCDC to ensure that the full rewards of its development programme may be retained within the group.

Despite £30.5m being spent on capital account and the need to fund general expansion of the business, the group's gearing has been reduced from 43 per cent to 28 per cent. At the year end the asset value had risen by 100p to 626p per share.

James Burrough

Pre-tax profits of James Burrough, distiller of Beefeater gin and Borzoi vodka, rose to £5.07m for the 12 months ended February 28 1983 an improvement of 44 per cent over the previous year's £3.53m.

Turnover, including duty, advanced by 26 per cent to £46.1m (£36.67m) and Mr Norman Burrough, the chairman, is "reasonably confident" that the coming year will provide opportunities for a further increase in sales. This should produce some growth in profits but not to the same extent as the past year.

The pre-tax figures were struck after making a special payment of £426,000 to the group's pension fund.

Earnings per share totalled 18.1p (13.7p) and on second interim dividend of 5.8p (4.9p) makes a net total of 8p (6.7p) —the company's shares are traded on the market made by Granville & Co.

Burns-Anderson

Interim profits of Burns-Anderson steel reinforcement supplier, expanded from £153,000 to £254,000 pre-tax, for the period to March 31 1983, on turnover up from £12.02m to £15.1m.

The interim dividend is increased from 0.6p to 0.7p net per 10p share—last year's final was 1.4p and taxable profits amounted to £337,000.

All divisions throughout the period improved their performance with the exception of the motor division where sales have advanced, but margins are still under pressure.

Business Intelligence

Pre-tax profits of Business Intelligence Services (BIS) jumped by 95 per cent to £2.7m for the year ended February 28 1983 on turnover up by 60 per cent at £23m.

All the group's four main businesses performed well, with the computer software and information systems companies achieving results, "well in excess of targets," directors state.

Interest and similar income added £196,000 (£148,000), but the pre-tax figure was subject to tax of £977,000 against £487,000.

Earnings per share are shown 162.5p, compared with 83.9p.

Butterfield-Harvey

A swing back into profit is reported by Butterfield-Harvey for the year to April 2 1983. Pre-tax profits came out at £110,000 compared with losses of £4.31m. The dividend is raised from 0.1p to 0.5p net.

Group turnover advanced from £43.74m to £46.1m, and there were trading profits of £1.05m against losses of £2.87m. Normal trading contributed profits of £583,000 (£2.03m losses), but there were exceptional items—redundancy costs — amounting to £111,000 (£838,000).

The pre-tax figure was after interest charges down from £1.26m to £936,000. Last time there were associate losses of £187,000. Tax credits provided £67,000 (£215,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £366,000 (£1.87m credits). Stated earnings per 25p share were 1.2p (loss 28.4p).

Property sales during the year, which included the two Eaton Socon factories of Shelvoke and Drewry, realised £1.9m, and the net book loss arising accounts substantially for the extraordinary debit.

The directors say the return to profitability was achieved despite the depressed level of trade in most of its markets, and the board is confident that a further improvement in results will be made in the coming year.

C

Cable and Wireless

On a rise in turnover from £352m to £403m, taxable profits of Cable and Wireless surged by £88m to £157m in the year to March 31 1983.

And with stated earnings per 50p share advancing from 17.1p to 36.2p the final dividend is being lifted from 4p to 5p making a higher total of 8.2p, compared with 6.6p. A one-for-two scrip issue is also proposed.

Mr Ernest Potter, finance director of this supplier of telecommunication services and facilities overseas, says the increase in profits was a direct result of the reorganisation over the last two years providing greater profit responsibility to managers with a tight rein on costs. However, he says it is doubtful whether the group will continue to grow at the same rate.

Tax took £48m (£37m) and there were minorities of £11m (£7m). In the previous year there were minorities of £11m credit of £56m.

Cadbury (Aust.)

Cadbury-Schweppes' 61.6 per cent-owned subsidiary, Cadbury-Schweppes (Australia), returned profits of A$8.34m (A$6.64m) for the 24 weeks to June 18, 1983 after tax but before extraordinary items. Sales rose from $131.66m to $147.46m.

Figures for the full year are expected to show a "satisfactory" increase over those of the previous year.

Tallicastle Investments is offering $1.4m cash for each of the Australian company's shares but the parent company has rejected the proposal.

Caffyns

Automobile agent and engineer Caffyns made pre-tax profits of £34,000 for the year ended March 31, 1983, compared with a loss of £222,000 the previous year, and although the group fell £26,000 back into the red in the second six months, contracts have been exchanged since the year-end for further property sales which will produce a "substantial" surplus in the current year.

Turnover for 1982-83 rose from £63.27m to £72.61m. The dividend total is held at 4.5p net by a same-again final of 3.3p.

Caledonian Cinemas

Including gains on property disposals of £121,000, profits of Caledonian Associated Cinemas rose from £215,000 to £454,000 pre-tax for the year to March 26 1983. Turnover was slightly lower at £10.16m (£10.78m).

Earnings emerged at 42p (loss 6p) per 25p share but the dividend total is held at 9p net by a same-again final of 7p.

A valuation of the investment properties (those not used in connection with trading activities) revealed a surplus over book value of £7.12m. This has been added to reserves. The group's ultimate holding company is the Equity Trust.

Caledonia Invs.

Attributable profits for the year to the end of March at 1983 at Caledonia Investments rose from £2.97m to £3.2m. Group turnover increased from £8.82m to £10.18m.

The net final dividend has been effectively raised, after allowing for last year's one-for-ten capitalisation issue, from 7.73p to 9p. This raises the total from an adjusted 13.18p to 15.5p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as rising from an adjusted 15.06p to 16.32p.

Camford Engineering

Pre-tax profits of £201,000 against losses of £639,000, were made by Camford Engineering for the six months to March 31 1983. No interim dividend is again payable.

Turnover of this manufacturer of metal pressings, stampings, machine parts and assemblies, improved slightly from £19.47m to £19.85m. No tax was again payable.

The directors expect profitable trading to be maintained during the second half-year.

Candecca Resources

Following associate losses of £325,000, compared with profits of £47,000, and a dive in interest income from £386,000 to £65,000, pre-tax losses of £684,000 against profits last time of £115,000 have been produced by Candecca Resources for the year to end of March 1983.

Oil sales of this USM company fell from £119,000 to £75,000. The directors say that figures reflect disappointing results from the company's interest in Pennine Resources and a reduction in interest income as funds were expended.

They add that the effects on results were in part offset by the inclusion for the first time of a full year's share of the profits arising from Plascom, an associate.

Of the attributable loss before tax of £858,000 (£23,000) made at Pennine, £829,000 (nil) related to a provision to reflect the estimated current value of oil and gas properties and prospect inventory.

Group operating losses amounted to £264,000 (profits £68,000) and there was interest payable this time of £95,000. Tax credits amounted to £23,000 (charges £41,000). Attributable losses emerged at £661,000 (profits £74,000), and after minorities (extraordinary debits came to £114,000 (credits £812,000).

Capital Gearing

Losses before tax at Capital Gearing Trust were slightly reduced from £17,340 to £14,803 for the year to April 5, 1983. Tax came to £2,368 against £1,948.

The dividend for the year has been held at 0.25p net. Net asset value per share was shown as moving up from 64.1p to 93.7p.

As assurance policies mature and linked loans are repaid the degree of gearing will fall, say the directors. They intend to restore the benefits of high gearing by including a proportion of investment trust convertible warrants in the portfolio. If there is a significant fall in long term interest rates the directors say they may consider the issue of debenture or preference stock.

Capital Reserve

Net revenue at Guernsey-based Capital Reserve Fund climbed from £35,291 to £83,234 —equivalent to 4.09353p against 3.72326p per 1p participating share—in the year to June 28, 1983. Net asset value per share rose from £14.985 to £16.4828.

No final dividend is being declared leaving the total payout at 4p (3.5p).

Carclo Engineering

Pre-tax profits of Carclo Engineering Group fell from £2.28m to £2.08m for the 12 months ended March 31 1983 on turnover of £29.99m, against £28.07m.

Order intake during the first quarter of the current year, however, is significantly higher and directors are increasing the dividend to 4.55p (3.9p) net per 25p share with a final payment of 3.25p.

After tax of £1.19m (£1.22m) actual earnings per share are shown as 12.1p (17.4p) and 12.2p (16p) fully diluted.

After extraordinary items and appropriations, profit retained was £119,000, compared with £640,000.

Cardiff Property

First half pre-tax profits of Cardiff Property moved ahead from £6,292 to £6,339 from turnover well up at £48,322, compared with £23,587. The interim dividend for the period, to March 31 1983, is the same at 0.6p net—a final of 1p was paid previously.

After all charges, including tax of £2,408 (£2,642), profits emerged at £3,931 (£3,650).

Major refurbishments at 57 High Street, Egham, and Elm House, Hatton Cross, are on target and expected to be completed by the end of this year. Negotiations for an early letting of the Egham premises are at an advanced stage and both properties should be contributing "substantially" to income early in 1984.

The directors are continuing their policy of growth by acquisitions.

Cardinal Investment

Total revenue of the Cardinal Investment Trust rose from £967,000 to £1m for the first half of 1983, while the pre-tax figure came through at £669,000, compared with £656,000.

After tax of £232,000 (£229,000) earnings per 25p deferred share were 0.04p ahead at 1.87p. The net interim dividend is held at 1.3p—last year's total was 3.65p.

Net asset value per share was 173.4p (117.2p) after prior charges at par, or 175.3p (119.7p) after charges at market value.

Carless Capel

On turnover up from £74.84m to £81.83m, pre-tax profits of Carless Capel and Leonard moved ahead to £2.53m for the year ended March 31 1983, against £2.02m. The company also announces a £20.6m rights issue.

Earnings per 10p share are shown as 4.5p, compared with 3.7p, and the dividend is maintained at 2.75p net with a same-again final payment of 1.75p.

Directors say that during the current year they expect earnings from the company's oil and gas sales, particularly in the U.S., to continue to rise.

The rights is of 13,736,089 10p ordinary shares at 155p to be offered on a two-for-nine basis. The issue, payable in full on acceptance by 3 pm July 4, has been underwritten by Lazard Bros and brokers are Laurence Prust and Co.

Tax charge is £15,000 (£126,000), minorities £20,000 (£15,000 credits), and there was an extraordinary debit of £405,000 (nil). After dividends of £1.7m (£1.36m) there was £631,000 (£568,000) retained.

Carlton Comms.

The first results from Carlton Communications since it gained its listing last February show a 72 per cent rise in profits before tax for the six months to the end of March 1983. The surplus moved up from £388,650 to £669,342 on turnover ahead from £2.08m to £3.32m.

Earnings per share of this television and photographic production concern improved from 2.45p to 4.21p. The net interim dividend has been recommended at 1.6p—the directors predict a final of not less than 2.4p

Carroll Industries

A lack of buoyancy in markets served by Carroll Industries, mainly as a result of deflationary Exchequer policies, is behind a reduction in current cost pre-tax profits from I£2.93m to I£2.89m, according to the directors. Turnover of this Dublin-based cigarette and tobacco manufacturer increased from £103.53m to £112.16m.

The net interim dividend will be held at 2.7p — in the past full year a final of 4.7p was paid which the directors expect to maintain this year.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as slipping from 5.4p to 4.8p.

Demand remains weak, say the directors, and they expect that second-half profits in the tobacco division will show a sharp decline.

Pre-tax profits were struck after interest payable of £505,000 (£455,000). Tax amounted to £651,000 (£543,000). Attributable profits emerged down from £2.57m to £2.32m.

Carr's Milling

A substantial increase in the contribution made by animal feedingstuffs at Carr's Milling Industries helped boost the pre-tax profit for the 26 weeks to March 5 1983 to £670,000 against £578,000 for the comparable 27 weeks. The result was also helped by continuing progress in agricultural merchanting.

However, Mr Ian Carr says that it is unlikely that profits before tax for the year as a whole will reach the level of £982,000 achieved last year.

The net interim dividend has been held at 1.75p—in the last full year a total of 4.75p was paid.

Turnover moved up from £20.99m to £22.09m.

Tax has been estimated at £37,000 (same) and attributable profits emerged ahead from £541,000 to £633,000.

Joseph Cartwright

Unquoted building and civil engineering contractor Joseph Cartwright increased taxable profits by 17.4 per cent in the year to March 31 1983 from £521,653 to a record £607,003. Turnover advanced by £5.5m to £37.1m. There was no tax charge.

At the same time as announcing the figures the company reported that it had acquired building contractor James Carmichael (Contractors) for £800,000 to expand its operations in the South East.

Looking to the current year Mr J. J. Cartwright, chairman, says the slight upturn in the economy has not yet affected either the company's level of new work or the margins obtained. However, it has a reasonable work-load and the directors regard the future with guarded optimism.

Castings

Severe competition at home and abroad has again hit the results of Castings. For the year ended March 31 1983 turnover has been clipped from £6.51m to £6.43m and the profit before tax cut by £175,406 to £374,912.

In the circumstances the figures are considered reasonable, and the dividend is held at 2p net per share. Earnings per 10p share slipped from 4.3p to 3.3p.

During November and December demand from several customers was reduced severely, and short time working and redundancy became necessary. There has been an increase in activity recently, which the directors hope will continue.

Centreway

In the year to March 31 1983, Centreway Trust, holding company, fell from taxable profits of £147,000 to £65,000, while its principal subsidiary Centreway Industries advanced from pre-tax profits of £312,000 to £741,000.

Centreway Trust, whose ultimate parent is Centreway Group, says that given its changing portfolio of activities the year end is to be moved to December 31 to balance the first and second half results.

The directors say the company's prospects depend on those of Centreway Industries whose directors in town indicate that the results for the nine months will continue at a satisfactory level. They will continue to rationalise inefficient activities and build up the growth potential of the group's existing and new portfolio.

Sales of Centreway Industries rose from £19.87m to £22.55m. Tax took £252,413 (£112,387) and there were extraordinary debits of £331,878 (credits £23,424) including reorganisation and closure costs of £298,527 (£50,000), leaving earnings per share of 4p (0.7p adjusted for subdivision and increase in capital).

Celestion Inds.

A cut in its loss from £931,000 to £610,000 has been achieved by Celestion Industries for the year ended April 2, 1983. The loss was made up of clothing profit £309,000 (£337,000), sound reproduction equipment loss £1.04m (£1.38m) and dividend income £116,000 (£107,000). The dividend payment is held at 1p net per share, and absorbs £90,000 after waivers of £146,000.

After tax credits £105,000 (£769,000) and a net deficit of £342,000 on the sale of investments (surplus £1.67m), the net loss came to £847,000 (£1.51m profit). Per share the loss was 2.1p (0.7p). There was a £1.17m surplus on revaluation of freehold and long leasehold industrial properties.

Century Oils

Following a sharp downturn in pre-tax profits at the interim stage at Century Oils Group from £2.08m to £910,000, the surplus for the year to March 31, 1983, was reduced from £4.1m to £3.04m.

Mr C. H. Mitchell, chairman, pointed out that second half profits were at a record level for any half year. He is optimistic about prospects for the current year provided that economic stability is maintained.

Measures taken to restore profits are proving effective he says and some encouraging progress has been achieved in recent months to develop new market areas.

Sales of this maker of lubricants, industrial hygiene products and engine coolants rose from £67.51m to £39.53m.

The dividend for the year has been held at 3.4p net with a final of 2.4p. Earnings per 10p share are shown as falling from 10.51p to 7.07p.

Pre-tax profits were struck after interest charges of £1.59m (£1.46m). Tax amounted to £1.63m (£1.97m) and after minorities, attributable profits emerged lower at £1.63m against £2.42m.

Centrovincial Ests.

Pre-tax profits of property dealing company Centrovincial Estates rose from £1.55m to £2.66m for the 12 months to March 31, 1983, with £1.45m, against £913,000, coming in the second six months.

Earnings per 20p share advanced to 12.47p (7.61p) and the total dividend is being increased by 1p to 5p net by a bigger final of 2.5p.

The 72 per cent rise in profits reflects sustained growth in net rental income and substantially lower interest (£1.75m, against £2.57m) as well as a higher dealing profit.

Net profits totalled £1.96m (£1.2m) after tax of £705,000 (£351,000).

At year end the group's properties were valued at £59.6m. The surplus arising amounted to £3.5m. At March 31, 1983 group net assets totalled £43.1m, equal to 275p (245p) per share.

Chamberlain Phipps

Lower pre-tax profits of £2.57m, compared with £3.23m, were returned by Chamberlain Phipps for the 12 months to March 31 1983 but the group is holding its dividend for the period at 3.3p net per share by a same-again final of 2.2p.

During the year certain strategic steps were taken to alter the group's composition which is believed will lead to an improved performance in the future.

The new structure depends on reasonable trading conditions and although the group has recently experienced some improvement, which is continuing, the directors say it is too early to predict a prolonged recovery either nationally or internationally.

Turnover for the year totalled £65.8m (£66.53m). At the attributable level there was a deficit of £751,000 (£1.35m surplus). This was struck after deductions of £1.07m (£1.28m) for tax, £118,000 (£202,000) for minorities, £41,000 (£54,000) for £2.06m (£348,000) extraordinary profit sharing scheme and debits.

Earnings per share emerged at 5.42p (7.19p).

Channel Is. & Intnl.

Net revenue at Channel Islands and International Investment Trust rose from £137,824 to £144,978 in the six months to June 30, 1983. This is equivalent to 477.581p (312.879p) per £1 capital share.

Gross revenue was £178,233 (£174,943). Management and other expenses absorbed £23,000 against £22,000. Dealing profits of a subsidiary totalled £25,351 compared with £19,281. Tax was higher at £36,214 (£34,457).

Chapman Industries

Pre-tax profits at Chapman Industries, envelope manufacturer, improved from £259,000 to £629,000 in the 52 weeks to April 2 1983. The final dividend is raised by 1p to 5.5p for an increased total of 7.5p compared with 6.5p.

Turnover was £13.66m against £11.8m, and there was a substantial increase in trading profits from £316,000 to £749,000. The pre-tax figure was after interest charges of £120,000 (£57,000). There was a tax credit of £51,000 against £258,000.

The chairman says capital expenditure on productive assets is at record levels and liquidity remains highly satisfactory. An encouraging start has been made to the current year, he adds.

Stated earnings per 50p share were 28.3p (21.5p) actual, and 12.6p (5.2p) notionally fully taxed.

Charter Tst.

The interim dividend of Charter Trust & Agency, investment trust, is unchanged at 0.925p net per 25p share for the six months ended May 31 1983. Also proposed is a one-for-one scrip issue.

Revenue came out at £766,959, against £704,589, after tax of £424,106 (£324,484) giving earnings per share of 1.89p, compared with 1.74p.

Total revenue was £1.67m, against £1.03m, including other income of £17,447 (£20,385). Total expenses were £467,770 (£162,641).

Net asset value is given as 150.4p (105.4p).

Chemring ahead

An increase in pre-tax profits from £400,200 to £542,000 has been shown by Chemring for the 26 weeks to March 25, 1983. Sales of this maker of electronic countermeasure products have risen from £2.16m to £3.22m.

The net interim dividend has been lifted from 2.5p to 3p—in the last full year a total of 6.2p was paid. Earnings per 5p share for the six months are shown as rising from 9.1p to 12.3p.

UK demand for products is good, say the directors and overseas sales are expected to increase during the second 26 weeks.

The current order book is strong and the present level of group pre-tax profits is expected to continue.

Sales include £242,400 (£841,900) in exports. Pre-tax profits include investment income down from £145,000 to £136,500. Tax amounted to £281,800 (£208,100).

Chloride in profit

Sustained emphasis on cost reduction helped produce a return to profitability at Chloride Group in the second six months to March 31, 1983. Following the £0.9m midway loss, the group ended the year with a pre-tax profit of £0.2m, an improvement of £2.6m over 1981-82.

Although the group's performance continues to improve, it is not yet able to resume dividend payments. Accordingly, there is again no ordinary dividend for the year and the preference dividend payable on June 30, 1983 is deferred, as were those payable on June 30, 1982 and December 31, 1982.

The directors say the full benefit of the many actions taken will only come through when market conditions improve. Once there is a sustained upturn, the group's more competitive cost base together with new products will provide scope for improved profits.

External sales were 2 per cent lower at £378.9m, against £387.7m—divestments reduced sales by around £11m. Operating profits rose 4 per cent from £15.7m to £16.4m, with a turnround in the UK performance from a £1.7m loss to a £1.1m profit.

Loss per 25p share decreased from 10.4p to 9p, after tax of £7.4m (£7m).

C.H. Industrials

As anticipated in the interim report C. H. Industrials returned improved results for the year to April 2 1983 with profits at the pre-tax level ahead from £242,000 to £721,000.

A final dividend of 1.45p (0.4925p) lifts the net total from 1.4p to 1.7p—earnings amounted to 4.58p (1.74p) per 10p share. Turnover expanded to £18.11m (£13.42m), excluding associates. Pre-tax figures included an £89,000 (nil) share of associate losses.

CH has reduced its shareholding in Aston Martin Lagonda (AML) from 50 per cent to 45 per cent. The shares were purchased by Automotive Investments which also has an option to acquire CH's shares in AML during the next three years at a price which will give CH "a satisfactory return" on its investment.

These arrangements cover the manufacturing and associated operations of AML. C.H. Industrials is retaining its 50 per cent shareholding and management control of Aston Martin Tickford.

Christie-Tyler

The improvement by Christie-Tyler in the opening half continued through the second six months and enabled the group to return profits of £362,000 at the pre-tax level for the year to April 30 1983 compared with the previous year's loss of £2.92m.

Turnover totalled £73m (£71.27m)—the group manufactures furniture and upholstery. Earnings per 10p share emerged at 3.9p (26.4p loss) but the dividend is again being passed.

The directors say that while the group's order book is at a higher level than at this time last year, margins remain under considerable pressure.

Chubb & Son

Pre-tax profits of Chubb & Son, with interests in security systems, rose from £9.37m to £14.14m for the year to the end of March last and a final dividend of 4.0034p lifts the net total to 5.95p, compared with 5.425p.

The directors say that although there was a "worthwhile" improvement in the results, there is no room for complacency because there is still some way to go before the group can return to the ratios produced in the late 70s. However, they face the future with confidence.

Group sales for 1982-83 advanced from £277.42m to £315.44m. Pre-tax figures were struck after allowing for redundancy and reorganisation costs of £2.3m (£1.7m) and net interest charges of £7.58m (£6.83m). They took in a £201,000 (£217,000) share of associates profits.

Tax charge rose from £4.47m to £5.86m and after minorities and preference dividends, earnings for ordinary shareholders emerged at £7.31m (£4.04m), before extraordinary debits of £168,000 (£3.12m).

Earnings per share amounted to 12.04p (6.65p).

Churchbury Estates

On turnover slightly down at £7.09m against £7.16m, pre-tax profit at Churchbury Estates improved from £920,000 to £2.33m in the year to March 31, 1983. Of this, investment profit contributed £2.32m compared with £474,000. There was a dealing loss of £10,000 against profits of £446,000.

The final dividend is raised from 8.5p to 9.5p net for a total up from 13p to 14.5p. Earnings per 25p share on investment activities were substantially higher at 14.5p (3.1), and on investment and dealing activities rose from 11.4p to 17.5p.

After tax of £973,000 (£287,000) and minorities of £156,000 (£72,000), net profits emerged at £1.2m compared with £561,000.

A year ago, arrangements were made to wind up the operations of the Australian subsidiaries. As foreshadowed in the interim statement, the directors have decided not to consolidate their results in 1982-83 so as to avoid distorting the trend in the group's results. The investment in these subsidiaries amounts to £3m (£3.1m) after provisions.

City and Foreign

Revenue down from £30,100 to £22,600 for the half year ended June 30, 1983, is reported by City and Foreign Investment. After much higher tax of £8,600 (£1,800) net revenue was halved at £14,000 (£28,300). Net asset value stood at 144.13p against 111.88p at December 31, 1982.

City of Dublin Bank

A 30 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from I£421,000 to I£547,000 is reported by City of Dublin Bank for the six months to the end of March, 1983.

Earnings per 25p share improved from 2.02p to 2.11p and the interim dividend is up 10 per cent to 0.9625p (0.875p) net —last year's total payout was 2.8875p.

Mr Thomas Kenny, the chairman, says that if the lower trend in interest rates continues, earnings for the year will exceed those for 1982.

Clyde Blowers

Although turnover of Clyde Blowers was little changed at £1.99m, against £2.02m, pre-tax profits of this manufacturer of steam and soot blowing equipment tumbled from £245,253 to £97,621, in the half year to February 28 1983.

After tax of £48,800 (£122,600) earnings per 25p share dropped from 12.27p to 4.88p. The interim dividend however, is maintained at 0.82685p net—last year's total was 6.2p.

Coalite Group

Taxable profits of Coalite Group advanced from £23.88m

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to £37.34m in the year to March 31 1983, on turnover ahead at £415.93m, compared with £406.87m.

Earnings per 25p share are stated slightly higher at 18.26p (18.2p) and the final dividend is being lifted from 3.1p to 3.5p net, making a higher total of 5.05p, against 4.53p.

Trading profits moved ahead from £22.05m to £24.24m and there was net interest receivable of £3.1m (£1.81m). Tax took £11.64m (£8.21m) leaving attributable profits of £15.703 (£15.65m), while dividends absorbed £4.34m (£3.9m). Current cost adjustments reduced the pre-tax profits to £19.53m (£15.76m) and earnings per share to 9.18p (8.78p).

At the halfway stage the group was already ahead with taxable profits of £8.21m (£7.2m) earned on sales of £174.95m (£163.74m).

Coalite's activities comprise low and high temperature carbonisation of coal, oil refining and chemicals manufacture, fuel distribution, transport, warehousing, and shipping services, builders merchanting, instrument manufacture and sheep farming.

Cluff Oil

Although reducing its pre-tax losses from £522,000 to £2,000, Cluff Oil, petroleum exploration and exploitation company, says it will not be paying ordinary or "B" ordinary dividends for 1982.

Turnover for the year was up from £255,000 to £772,000, but the loss from operations was £2.29m compared with £1.54m. Net profit on the sale of inevestments was £2.43m agains £1.2m. Associates' losses amounted to £138,000 (£179,000).

After tax down from £145,000 to £93,000, a minorities credit of £176,000 (£327,000) and extroordinary credits of £302,000 (£461,000), attributable profits emerged at £383,000 (£121,000).

The directors says that in North America, the exploration programme has produced more discoveries since those announced at the time of the rights issue but, having regard to the depressed demand for gas in the U.S., the company has reduced the level of exploration expenditure in North Amrecia until such time as it can finance future wells out of positive cash flow there.

A. Cohen

Second half profit of A. Cohen cam eto £485,000 for a total of £1.17m for the year 1982—the directors expected the second half result to be not much different from the £680,000 achieved in the first. The dividend is stepped up to 8.4p with a final of 5.67p. In 1981 the total payment was 6.745p from a pre-tax profit of £2.18m.

Turnover of this metal refiner and manufacturer of non-ferrous alloys amounted to £28.3m (£33.91m). Of the profit £552,000 (£583,000) came from associates. After tax £460,000 (£1.22m) and minority £137,000 (£213,000), net earnings are shown at 30.81p (40.74p).

Comet Group

With the volume of retail trade increasing substantially, particularly in electrical goods, profits of the Comet Group for the half-year ended February 26 1983 have more than trebled, from £4.11m to £12.76m. The interim dividend is stepped up from 1.47p to 2p, and a final of not less than 3.5p (2.93p) is expected.

Turnover for the first half rose from £135m to £194.5m, exclusive of VAT. After tax £2.75m (£187,000) net of ACT recoverable, earnings are shown at 24.8p (9.7p) per share.

Computer & Systems

For the 15 months ended March 31 1983 Computer and Systems Engineering has produced turnover of £29.34m and a profit before tax of £1.7m. These compare with £17.47m and £1.37m respectively for the previous year.

The dividend is the promised 3.9375p for the period, equal to 3.15p on an annual basis; the final being 2.3625p.

This time the profit takes in £203,000 interest (£22,000 paid out) and £750,000 trading losses incurred by the word processor distributorship prior to termination at the end of September last.

Tax takes £152,000 (£20,000) and there is an extraordinary debit of £286,000, being a write off of goodwill bought when the word processor activity was acquired. Fully diluted earnings are shown at 18.4p (19.7p) per share.

Conoco ahead

Petroleum products distributor, Conoco, wholly owned by E. I. Du Pont de Nemours and Co of the U.S., has pushed up profits from £122m to £139m for 1982, subject to tax of £57.2m, against £54.7m.

Gross revenue amounted to £1.68bn, compared with £1.47bn, and there was an extraordinary credit for the year of £59.6m (£35.5m).

Consultants Computer

Increased profits before tax and a first interim dividend are announced by Consultants (Computer and Financial) for the six months to the end of June 1983. The taxable surplus of this USM company moved ahead from £18,501 to £199,535 on turnover of £904,356 against £478,161.

The profit outlook is better than expected at the time of the annual meeting last March, and the directors say that major orders have been received from south east Asia, which they predict will be a major growth area.

Continental Industl.

Net revenue of the Continental & Industrial Trust improved from £2.28m to £2.5m in the year ended May 31 1983, and the dividend is raised by 1.3p to 14.3p net, with a final of 10.3p.

Tax charged was £1.77m (£1.56m). Earnings were 14.54p (13.23p) per 25p share and the net assets value worked out at 528.9p (370p).

Continuous Statny.

A downturn from £241,000 to £113,000 in second half profits has left Continuous Stationery at £340,000 for the year ended March 31 1983, compared with £392,000 in the previous year. The dividend is held at 2.15p net with an unchanged final of 1.7p.

Turnover of this printer of computer stationery moved up from £3.91m to £4.27m. After tax of £166,000 (£189,000) the net profit came out at £174,000 (£203,000) for earnings of 3.49p (4.05p).

Control Secs.

Property group Control Securities raised its pre-tax profits by 47 per cent to £1.48m for the year ended March 31, 1983. All sections of the group traded profitably, with "excellent" results from the overseas companies.

The dividend is being lifted from the equivalent of 2.75625p to 3.15p net per 10p share by a same-again final of 1.575p.

Group turnover totalled £4.42m (£2.55m) and was made up as to rental income £543,841 (£386,778) and other income £3.88m (£2.16m). Pre-tax results were after deducting £474,638 (£313,134) interest costs and adding a £258,312 (£351,704) share of associates profits.

Earnings per share emerged at 6.05p (4.73p) basic and at 6.05p (4.31p) fully diluted. At March 31 shareholders' funds stood at £5.09m (£3.67m).

Wm. Cook & Sons

On a rise in sales from £3.96m to £5.18m, taxable profits of William Cook & Sons (Sheffield) advanced from £178,000 to £344,000 in the year to March 31 1983.

Earnings per 20p share are given higher at 6.12p (4.3p) and the year's dividend is being raised from 0.5p to 1.5p net with a final of 1.3p (0.2p).

Tax took £38,000 (credit £37,000) and there was an extraordinary debit of £63,000 (credit £21,000) for redundancy, severance and compensation payments.

Country & New Town

Increased pre-tax profits from £1.32m to £2.01m have been shown by Country and New Town Properties for the year to the end of January, 1983. The net dividend has been raised from 0.65p to 0.7p—which makes 1p against 0.9p for the year.

The first professional valuation since 1973 shows a total of £82m for group properties. The Civil Service Store building in London's Strand is shown at £4.75m against an estimate of £11m before fire last July. Excluding the store building the valuation represents a net 9.5 per cent increase over the 1982 estimate.

The group has received settlement of £13.5m for insurance claims on the Civil Service Store. Substantial claims are still under negotiation for loss of profits.

Net asset value per share is 97p—which does not take account of the acquisition of a half interest in Canadian properties after the year-end.

Country Gentlemen's

Attributable profits at the Country Gentlemen's Association fell from £172,325 to £43,800 in the year to March 31 1983. This was after all charges including tax down from £75,359 to £67,842.

The dividend is raised from an adjusted 6.25p to 8.25p. Turnover slipped from £2.31m to £2.15m. Stated earnings per share—each £1 share has been sub-divided into four 25p shares—fell from 14.3p to 7.6p.

Mr P. D. N. Earle, the chairman, says the company has passed through a period of considerable change over the past five years, and having divested itself of its loss-making sections, should be well-placed to forge ahead in the coming years.

Countryside Props.

Countryside Properties, property developer and housebuilder, improved its first half pre-tax profits by 54 per cent, from £531,000 to £816,000, and is lifting its net interim dividend by 0.14p to 1.68p per 25p share.

The results are described as "most encouraging" and having regard to the present level of forward sale reservations for the group's new housing the directors expect profits for the full year to be at a "satisfactory" level.

They add that there is scope to achieve a third successive year of record profits but that this will depend on the timing of lettings and sales of the commercial and industrial schemes where construction will be completed during the remaining period.

Turnover for the half year, to end-March 1983, totalled £8.46m (£6.19m), an increase of 37 per cent. Earnings per share amounted to 12.8p (8.3p).

For the 1981-82 year group pre-tax profits rose to £1.76m and a final dividend of 2.695p was paid.

Courts rises

Following much improved trading in the second half, both in the UK and overseas, Courts (Furnishers) raised pre-tax profits for the year ended March 31 1983 from £4.6m to a record £6.4m, on turnover—including VAT—£9.6m higher at £77.84m.

Mid-term taxable figures were up from £1.64m to £2.21m.

In the current year, turnover in the UK and overseas is ahead of the corresponding period, although trading in certain territories is not as buoyant as the company would wish.

The final dividend is being raised from £1.95p to 2.95p net for a total 1p higher at 4.7p (3.7p) per share. Earnings per 25p share rose by 1.4p to 15p.

After a transfer from deferred profit of £451,00 in the first half, there was a transfer into deferred profit of £1.14m in the second six months. Total deferred profits now amount to £13.98m and this will flow into profits in future years.

Coutinho Caro

In the year to 1982 Coutinho Caro and Co. increased its turnover by £38.84m to £152.22m and its pre-tax profit by £592,000 to £2.86m. The group is involved in international trading as steel, general and machinery merchant, and construction abroad of complete plant.

The trading activities have been transferred into a separate company, Coutinho Caro UK, and the parent will conceotrate on managing its investments and providing finance and management services to the operating subsidiary.

Available profit for the year came out at £1.66m (£6.47m), after tax £443,000 (credit £4.55m) and minorities £756,000 (£347,000). Dividends absorb £440,000 (£400,000).

Looking at the future, the directors do not expect better results in the current year than were achieved in 1982. They have every confidence in the long-term future.

Craig & Rose

On turnover of £4.92m, compared with £4.72m, taxable profits of paint manufacturer Craig & Rose were little changed at £206,000 for 1982, against £204,000.

The dividend is lifted, however, from 45p to 47p with a final payment of 39p net per £1 share. Earnings are shown as 132.87p (139.19p) per share after tax of £69,000 (£61,000).

Crescent Japan

Taxable profits of Crescent Japan Investment Trust slipped from £131,713 to £122,539 for the six months to June 30 1983, although gross revenue rose to £240,451, against £204,778.

After tax of £52,252 (£68,491) earnings per 50p share were up from 0.94p to 1.04p.

Net asset value per share advanced from 295.7p to 558.9p.

Cray Electronics

Growth continues at Cray Electronics. In the year ended April 30 1983 turnover rose 10 per cent to £18.8m and profit before tax advanced by 34 per cent to £1.74m. Net earnings are up to 5.25p (3.84p) and the dividend is lifted from the equivalent of 1.35p to 1.755p, the final being 1.32p.

The improvement in profit margins is a continuing reflection of the decision to concentrate on higher margin business.

Crest Nicholson

As expected, a fall in pre-tax profits has been shown by Crest Nicholson for the six months to April 30 1983, with the surplus plunging from £2.5m to £202,000. In their last annual report the directors warned that the imbalance between the first and second half periods would be particularly marked this year—and they reiterate this view with the interim results.

For the year as a whole the directors predict a small improvement on the £6.72m achieved last year, and point out that it will be 1984 before results reflect "real progress."

The net interim dividend has been held at 1.25p—earnings per 10p share fell from 3.68p to 0.33p.

Turnover of this housing, leisure and engineering group slipped from £25.55m to £23.38m.

After tax of £83,000 (£976,000) and minorities attributable profits emerged down from £1.52m to £139,000. Dividends will absorb £545,000 (£517,000).

Cronite Group

The anticipated improvement in trading activities at Cronite Group during the first six months failed to materialise and for the period, to March 31, 1983, the group incurred a pre-tax loss of £586,000, compared with profits of £80,000 previously.

The interim dividend is being passed—0.7p was paid last time, followed by a final of 0.8p. Loss per 25p share for the opening half amounted to 10.2p (1.8p earnings).

With the exception of Cronite Alloys all the operating companies incurred losses.

Remedial action has been taken and it is anticipated that this, together with significant management changes and a reduction in employee levels will reduce the rate of the second half loss as well as provide a base to continue a recovery programme with a view to the group returning to profit in the next financial year.

Turnover for the interim period totalled £4.66m (£5.53m)—the group is an investment holding concern. Pre-tax loss was after charging interest costs of £150,000 (£130,000).

James Cropper

A rise in pre-tax profits has been shown from £304,000 to £341,000 by James Cropper for the year to March 26, 1983. Turnover of this paper manufacturer moved up from £16.98m to £17.57m.

Second half profits rose from £43,000 to £286,000.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 2p to 2.5p which raises the total from 3p to 3.5p. The directors say that the year has started well with orders and profits ahead of both budget and the corresponding period last year. They hope full year results will show an improvement.

Pre-tax profits were struck after interest payments of £508,000 (£583,000). Tax amounted to £24,000 (£20,000).

Crosby House

Pre-tax profits of Crosby House Group more than trebled from £106,000 to £344,000 in 1982, on turnover substantially higher at £26.61m, against £9.2m. The figures include Jazerite Holdings and Rightwise, which were acquired at the end of December 1981.

There is again no dividend for the year. Earnings per £1 share were 13.9p (13p) or 12.6p (11.3p) fully diluted. Tax took £116,000 (nil) and there was a minority debit of £33,000 (nil).

An extraordinary debit of £450,000 this time was the amount received from the Thomas Cook Group in settlement of the claim against it by the company, less certain legal costs and other adjustments.

Crosby Woodfield

Crosby Woodfield, with interests in springs, pressings and precision engineering, incurred a pre-tax loss of £269,000 (£37,000 profit) for the year to March 31 1983 after charging £63,000 exceptional redundancy costs and writing off fixed assets taken out of commission having a written-down value of £82,000, together with a number of smaller non-recurring items.

Without these charges the loss would have been £115,000 compared with the 1981-82 result, arrived at after adjustments for similar charges, of £42,000 profit.

Loss per 10p share for 1982-83 totalled 1.8p (0.2p) after extraordinary items, but the dividend is again 0.05p net—the group balance-sheet continues to be sound. Turnover declined from £6.47m to £5.64m.

Crown House

Considerably improved results from electrical and mechanical services of Crown House were to some extent offset by costs incurred in the reorganisation of production at Denby Tableware.

Nevertheless, the group, other interests of which include property development and employment services, achieved pre-tax profits up by 49.6 per cent from £2.56m to £3.83m for the year to March 31 1983.

Turnover jumped from £148.46m to £184.12m and tax took £1.06m (£1.29m), for net profits of £2.77m (£1.26m). This gave earnings of 10.8p (5.1p) per 25p share and the total dividend is lifted from 5.25p to 5.75p with a final payment of 3.5p.

Minority profits this time amounted to £319,000 (£98,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £246,000 compared with credits of £194,000.

This left an attributable balance of £2.2m (£1.36m), from which dividends absorbed £1.32m (£1.21m) for a retained figure of £882,000 (£152,000).

Cullen's Stores

After profits on the disposal of fixed assets of £459,096 against £239,711 at Cullen's Stores, pre-tax profits for the year to the end of February 1983 moved up from £147,854 to £198,484. Turnover of this grocer and wine, spirit and beer merchant rose from £20.39m to £21.06m.

The net final dividend has been held at 3.6p which maintains the total at 4.3p. Earnings per 20p share are shown as rising from 9.81p to 21.02p—although excluding profits on disposals they moved down from earnings of 1.34p to losses of 4.64p.

After tax credits of £49,581 (£56,046) and same-again preference payments of £7,700, attributable profits emerged ahead from £196,200 to £240,365.

Cystic Research

After tax of £15,094, against £13,982, profits of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Investment Trust for 1982 were little changed at £28,606, compared with 1981's £28,507.

Dividends, deposit interest and commissions totalled £69,621, against £60,420, but these were subject to management expenses of £25,921 (£17,991), including interest charges of £14,000 (£11,620).

Net asset value per £1 share amounted to 179.5p, compared with 103p previously.

A Stock Exchange listing for 520,000 of the company's shares was granted in March 1981.

D

Daejan Holdings

Property investment company Daejan Holdings advanced from taxable profits of £4.76m to £8.93m in the year to March 31 1983.

Earnings per 25p share are given higher at 26.48p (18.48p) and the final dividend is being lifted from 2.825p to 3.825p net making a total of 5.75p (4.75p)

Rents and charges received moved up from £12.99m to £14.14m and there was a surplus on property sales and other income of £7.04m (£5.64m). Property outgoings amounted to £8.61m (£8.05m) and net interest payable and other charges fell marginally from £5.83m to £5.64m. Tax took £2.57m (£1.74m).

Daily Mail Trust

Net revenue of Daily Mail and General Trust, including Associated Newspapers, rose from £2.06m to £2.57m in the half year to March 31 1983, and with earnings up from 13.5p to 14.1p per 50p share, the net interim dividend is being increased from 11p to 12p.

Last year's total payment was 31p on net profits of £5.3m (£7.43m).

Revenue from investments at midterm amounted to £736,000 (£682,000) and at March 31 the net asset value per share was 807p (644p).

Danae Investment

Gross revenue of Danae Investment Trust declined from £708,002 to £648,665 for the year to end-May 1983, but after a lower tax charge of £163,234, against £173,425, attributable profits emerged ahead at £297,762, compared with £266,206.

A second interim dividend of 2.4p (same) in lieu of a final holds the net total at 4p—earnings amounted to 4.25p (3.8p) per 25p income share.

Net asset value per income share totalled 48.73p (35.83p) at year-end. At June 30 1983, net asset value per income share was 50.46p.

Davy Corporation

Profits of the Davy Corporation dived by £14.15m to £6.27m pre-tax for the year to March 31 1983 with figures for the second six months, at £3.19m, similar to those of the opening period as indicated in the interim report.

The dividend for the year is being cut from 7.37p to 3.685p net by a reduced final of 2.585p (5.17p)—the interim was halved to 1.1p.

The group, involved in engineering and construction, has started the current year with a reduced work load and with lower contract profits in the pipeline. Orders received in the first quarter continue to be below group requirements. Several large contracts are hoped for but the timing is uncertain.

The directors say an improvement in profits for 1983/84 depends on the group receiving some large orders in the next few months.

Turnover for the past year dropped from £877.01m to £707.61m. The U.S. companies' profits fell from £10.2m to £3.7m: the German companies incurred losses of £3.8m (£4.5m profits).

Although overall profits from contracts were generally satisfactory, a further provision of £10m (£4m) was required to cover anticipated cost over-run on a large petrochemical contract in the U.S.S.R.

Godfrey Davis scrip

Slightly lower pre-tax profits of £2.61m against £2.97m are reported by Godfrey Davis (Holdings) for the year to March 31, 1983. The final dividend is unchanged at 2.5p for a same-again total of 4p net. A one-for-four scrip issue is proposed.

Turnover of this Ford main dealer, which also has interests in home estates and sales, holiday centres and caravan sales, and finance and property, improved from £85.11m to £93.6m. The pre-tax figure was after an exceptional item of £198,000 (£85,000), which were provisions set up in respect of the estimated future net cost of the lease of the group's previous head offices.

These offices are still substantially vacant and therefore provision has been made in respect of the whole remaining period to the end of the lease.

Tax for the year was down from £1.36m to £1.25m. After dividends of £613,000 (£605,000), retained profits were £747,000 against £1.02m. Stated earnings per 25p share were 1.7p lower at 9p.

At the year-end, shareholders' funds stood at £22.64m against £21.89m.

Dawson Intl.

After seven years of uninterrupted growth, Dawson International, the Scottish-based textile group, reports profits down from £23.62m to £20.05m for the year ended March 31 1983. Earnings are shown to be 18.6p (19.7p) and the dividend is raised from 6p to 6.5p net per share, with a final of 4.3p.

The directors say that the result is satisfactory in an exceptionally difficult year. At present, market conditions are a little better and order books are higher than at this time last year.

Efforts are continuing to contain costs and maximise production efficiencies. Further increased commitments to capital expenditure amount to £3.1m so far in the current year.

During 1982-83 net liquid resources rose from £27.6m to £38.5m. Shareholders' funds increased by 14.4p per share to 99p.

Andre de Brett

A fall in pre-tax profits from £869,000 to £566,000 has been shown by direct mail order house Andre de Brett for the year to the end of March 1983. Turnover of this USM company expanded from £4.59m to £5.07m.

The net final dividend has been recommended at 1.5p which raises the total from 1.5p to 2.5p. Earnings per 10p share are shown as moving down from 5.4p to 4.26p.

During the first four months of the current year the directors say that turnover which continues to be generated principally by the main spring/summer catalogues is ahead of last year. They add that there are negotiations for three further retail premises in the greater London area.

De La Rue

Second half pre-tax profits of the De La Rue Company, security printing, transport and electronics group, surged from £11.43m to £20.9m and, as expected, the figures for the whole of the year ended March 31 amounted to £31.65m, showing a substantial recovery from the previous year's £21.94m.

Profits for 1980-81 were £33m (£36.5m).

Group sales for the 12 months expanded from £203.5m to £225.91m and from earnings per 25p share of 48p (35.3p) the dividend is stepped up to 23.5p (22.08p) net with a final payment of 16.9p.

Interest charges for the group were £2.11m, compared with £1.94m, and associates share was £9m, against £6.61m. After tax £11.44m (£7.11m), minority interests £1.92m (£1.38m), and extraordinary debits £3.22m (£806,000)—reorganisation costs in a UK subsidiary—the attributable balance was £15.07m, against a previous £12.64m.

Delmar Group

Turnover of Delmar Group, a rubber and plastics company shares of which are dealt on the USM, showed little change at £2.2m against £2.13m in the year to March 31 1983 and pre-tax profits fell from £446,000 to £366,000, being £215,000 for the group from August 1 1982 to the year-end and £151,000 of pre-acquisition profits.

A deficit of £133,000 inherited from Speedwell Gear Case Company means the directors are unable to pay an ordinary dividend for the year under review but they have declared a first interim of 0.98p net in respect of 1983-84.

They report that the cost of reorganisation reduced profits by some 18 per cent but say they believe that results will improve in the current 12 months as benefits from the past year's actions begin to come through and new products are brought to the market.

Derby Trust

Profits of Derby Trust edged ahead from £498,484 to £510,486 for the first half of 1983, before tax of £183,449 (£185,332), and the net interim dividend is being increased to 11.076p (10.606p) per share.

Asset value per 50p capital share amounted to £8.95½ (£7.02½) at end-December 1982.

George Dew

Reduced turnover and lower pre-tax profits are reported by George Dew, civil engineer and building contractor, for the six months to May 1, 1983. Turnover was down from £13.84m to £13.3m, and pre-tax profits fell from £910,000 to £678,000. The interim dividend is held, however, at 2.3p net—last year's total was 5.7p from pre-tax profits of £2.54m.

After tax of £244,000 (£456,000), attributable profits were £10,000 higher at £434,000—there was an extraordinary debit of £30,000 last time. Earnings per 25p share were 5.4p (5.7p).

Mr W. Arnold Barcroft, the chairman, says the recession continued through the winter to affect adversely the order book for civil engineering construction at home and abroad, and there has been a poor demand for industrial building work. He says the level of inquiry has improved a little recently and several contracts have been awarded to improve the order book.

Dewhurst & Partner

A sharp increase in pre-tax profits has been shown by Dewhurst & Partner from £24.24m to £57.66m for the 26 weeks to March 27 1983. Turnover of this manufacturer of electric control equipment moved ahead from £1.58bn to £1.66bn.

The net interim dividend has been lifted from 0.15p to 0.225p—in the last full year a final of 0.3p was also paid. Earnings per 10p share were shown as improving from 0.24p to 0.56p.

A breakdown of profits shows: Dewhurst & Partner £22.56m (loss £19.78m); Dupar Pelephone £3.69m (£2.81m); Dupar Canada £31.41m (£41.21m).

Dewhurst & Partner trading is a little more buoyant than last year, say the directors, and a further recovery in profits is anticipated. The setback in trading at Dupar Canada is likely to be more acute in the second half, but the market is expected to improve late in 1983.

Diamond Stylus

In the year ended March 31, 1983 Diamond Stylus has returned profits with £75,462 against a loss of £55,437 in the previous year. Dividends are also resumed, the payment being 0.65p gross. Adding back a deferred tax provision gives a net profit of £227,016.

Distillers Company

Despite exceptional redundancy and closure costs amounting to £8.3m, the Distillers Company increased its pre-tax profits from £178.2m to £200.8m in the year to March 31, 1983. The final dividend is cut from 8.75p to 8.5p net, but the total is up from 11.75p to 13p. Turnover was £1.13bn compared with £1.08bn.

The directors say the higher trading profit, up from £181.6m to £204.3m, reflected improved results from each of the group's products. An increase in the sales value of both Scotch whisky and gin, despite a reduction in volume, was assisted by the strength of the U.S. dollar in which the company invoices its shipments to the U.S. of whiskies bottled in Scotland.

Apart from the exceptional debits, the pre-tax figure included investment income up from £5.8m to £6.7m and interest of £700,000 (£6.1m debit), but was after losses of £2.6m (£3.1m) of related company.

Tax for the year was £67.9m against £49m, and there were extraordinary debts of £4.9m (£300,000). Earnings per 50p share improved from 35.72p to 36.59p.

Distillers Company chairman, Mr J. R. Cater, who announced a rise in year end pre-tax profits to over £200m

Dixons growth

With the announcement of its 1982-83 results, showing profit ahead by £1.52m to £14.03m, Dixons Group reveals plans for a rights issue to raise some £21m before expenses. It will be underwritten and be on a six-for-25 basis at 175p per share, involving the issue of 12.07m shares.

For the year ended April 30 1983 the final dividend is 2.64p for a net total of 4.09p (3.779p). A split of the profit shows: retail £7.47m (£6.02m); processing loss £314,000 (profit £671,000); pharmaceutical £205,000 (loss £441,000); manufacturing £875,000 (£642,000); property £2.28m (£2.26m); overseas £3.71m (£3.36m). Earnings were 24.4p (20.8p).

Principal purpose of the issue is to raise additional permanent capital to facilitate the UK growth programme. The directors expect to at least maintain the 4.09p dividend on the enlarged capital. Borrowings totalled £21.07m at April 30 and £36.74m at July 8.

The current year is expected to be satisfactory. The retail side has started well, the film processing division has been reorganised and is trading profitably, and pharmaceutical sales are ahead of last year.

Dobson Park

For the current year to September 30, 1983 Dobson Park Industries is looking for profits around the £7.8m mark, compared with £9.07m achieved previously.

In the first half profits have shown some improvement at £3.89m (£3.79m), but the difficulties of the international coal mining equipment industry "must affect our prospects for the remainder of the year," the directors state.

They are maintaining the interim dividend at 1.9p and, providing liquidity, earnings per share and prospects for next year are as now expected, they will pay an unchanged final of 3.31p.

A split of the profit shows: mining equipment £2.6m (£4.24m), power tools £539,000 (loss £891,000), engineering £449,000 (loss £155,000), property and investment management £271,000 (£170,000), and money management £37,000 (£422,000).

After tax £1.71m (£1.49m), minorities credit £28,000 (debit £4,000), and extraordinary charges £276,000 (£137,000), the net available profit is £1.94m (£2.16m), and earnings are shown at 2.7p (2.8p).

Dollonds Photo

In the second half Dollonds Photographic Holdings incurred a loss of £194,656, to bring the total for the year ended January 31 1983 up to £411,502, compared with £165,057 previously. The second-half loss included £28,247 exceptional provisions in respect of bad debts and £29,908 for stock write-downs.

After tax credits £6,069 (£2,182) and extraordinary credits £32,865 (£42,350 debits) there is an available loss of £372,568 (£205,225). Per share this is equal to 46.94p (18.86p).

As a step towards future group development, Dollonds has agreed conditionally to purchase the privately owned Axtell Group which produces optical effects and computer generated imagery. Consideration will be the issue of 50,000 Dollonds ordinary shares and £950,000 cash, payable as to £380,000 on completion, £260,000 on April 8 next year and £310,000 on April 8 1985.

With the consolidation of the profits of the Axtell Group from the date of acquisition, the enlarged Dollonds group is expected to show a profit in the second half of the current year, although this will not be sufficient to prevent a loss for the year as a whole.

At the end of 1982 net tangible assets of Axtell amounted to £405,000. For that year the group produced a profit of £138,000 on sales of £731,000.

Dom Holdings

A sharp improvement in pre-tax profits, from £730,859 to £1.03m, was shown by Dom Holdings for the year to March 31 1983, but the dividend total is held at 4.278p net by a same-again final of 2.799p.

Turnover rose from £13.12m to £14.43m—the group retails and manufactures fixing products. Earnings emerged at 9.16p (7.19p) per 10p share after tax of £346,152 (£191,894).

Midyear profits were ahead at £501,446 (£331,145) and a distinct improvement for the year as a whole was foreseen.

Dominion & General

Dominion and General Trust is raising its dividend from 11.5p to 12.9p net for the year ended April 30 1983, with a second interim of 9.4p. Revenue came to £830,307, against £774,460, subject to tax of £274,688 (£276,131).

Earnings were shown at 12.94p (11.57p) per share, and at April 30 the net asset value was 493p (338p) after prior charges at par.

Dominion Intl.

AN INCREASE of 42 per cent in pre-tax profits has been shown by Dominion International Group, which continues a rising profits trend for the 12th year in succession. The surplus before tax improved from £2.82m to £4.02m on turnover sharply ahead from £15.66m to £23.77m for the year to the end of March 1983.

A final dividend of 2p net on the enlarged capital has been declared as forecast at the time of the rights issue last February. This compares with a previous final of 2p, and a total of 3.75p for the last full year, and brings this year's total to 4p.

Basic earnings per 20p share were given as moving up from an adjusted 12.31p to 15.78p, and from the equivalent of 10.41p to 13.15p diluted.

The current financial year has started strongly, says Mr Max Lewinsohn, and several parts of the group have the added benefit of a first full contribution from new interests. He looks to the future "with confidence" and says the group is well placed to achieve further growth during the present year and beyond.

Downs Surgical

After exceptional debits of £413,000 this time, Downs Surgical incurred pre-tax losses of £242,000 in the year to March 31, 1983. The dividend is unchanged at 0.3p. Sales rose from £17.34m to £19.21m.

The directors say that after disappointing first half figures, a programme of group rationalisation was undertaken. Together with a more b uoyant second half, this has resulted in a trading profit of £171,000 compared with a loss of £42,000.

The exceptional debits comprise £116,000 provision for compensation and redundancy payments, and £297,000 special write-offs of discontinued stocks. Tax for the year was lower at £34,000 (£133,000).

The current year has started with an encouraging order intake, but it is too early to predict the outcome for the whole year, they say.

Stated earnings per 10p share were 0.92p (loss 1.17p) before extraordinary items, and there was a loss of 1.84p (1.17p) after extraordinary items.

Dowty at £36.4m

Turnover at Dowty Group climbed from £350.81m to £420.81m in the year to March 31 1983, but pre-tax profits were down from £39.14m to £36.4m.

The pre-tax figure was after redundancy and closure costs totalling £4.34m against £1.34m, and interest charges up from £625,000 to £1.58m, but included associates' profits of £234,000 compared with £3,000. Tax for the year was £11.71m (£11.5m).

The final dividend is raised from 2.15p to 2.25p for a total up from 3.7p to 3.9p. After minorities of £247,000 (£118,000), earnings per 50p were lower at 12.1p (13.6p).

The directors say that with the uncertainties of timing in the company's two major markets, forecasting the outcome of the current year has never been more difficult. Their confidence in future growth is unshaken, but it may need longer than the balance of this year for the results to show through.

Dowty has five main divisions—aerospace, defence, mining, industrial, and electronics.

Drake & Scull

A slight increase in pre-tax profits from £1.93m to £2.08m is reported by Drake & Scull Holdings, electrical, mechanical and general engineer, for the six months to April 30 1983. The directors report that the group's overall UK operation made a lower than expected contribution.

Turnover advanced from £54.08m to £68.42m and the directors say current forecasts indicate that planned growth in turnover for the full year can be achieved.

The interim dividend is maintained at 1.25p net and the directors remain confident that the final will be not less than last year's 2p.

Tax for the half year took £1.14m (£864,000) and net attributable profits came through lower at £576,000, against £954,000. Earnings per 1p share dropped from 4.7p to 2.6p.

Drayton Far East.

After a £53,100 rise in management expenses to £109,400, pre-tax revenue of the Drayton Far Eastern Trust declined from £171,400 to £68,300 for the six months ended June 30 1983.

The net interim dividend is the same at 0.4p per 25p share. Net asset value per ordinary amounted to 97p (85p at end-December 1982).

Tax for the half year dropped from £82,800 to £30,700.

Drayton Japan

After foreign currency loan interest charges of £667,200 this time and Drayton Japan Trust and management expenses of £230,800 against £160,400, pre-tax figures dived into a deficit of £54,500 compared with profits of £1.83m. The net interim dividend has been cut from 2p to 1p.

In the last full year a total dividend of 8.5p was paid including a special 3p interim payment.

The directors say that they intend to pay a final of 2p

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making a total of 3p for the year.

Net asset value was given as 306.5p compared with 265.25p at the end of December 1982, after deducting debenture and preference stocks at their nominal values.

Drayton Premier

Pre-tax revenue of Drayton Premier Investment Trust dropped from £2.79m to £2.59m for the first half of 1983. The interim dividend however, is maintained at 3p net per share—last year's final was 8p.

Management expenses took £234,900 (£223,100) and loan capital interest, £76,200 (£89,200). Tax charge came out at £986,700 (£1.1m).

Net asset value increased to 410.75p (334.25p at December 31, 1982).

Dunhill Holdings

Reflecting both management actions to meet adverse trading conditions and benefits from exchange rates pre-tax profits of Dunhill Holdings improved from £5.22m to £6.26m for the year ended March 31 1983.

The directors point out that the difficult trading conditions reported at the interim stage showed no significant improvement during the second six months.

Group turnover for the year expanded from £72.88m to £86.78m—the group, a subsidiary of Rothmans International, manufactures lighters, watches and pipes.

Attributable profits emerged at £4.04m, against £2.75m, after tax of £2.21m (£2.44m) and minorities of £15,000 (£41,000).

Stated earnings per 10p share came through 15.4p ahead at 47.8p and an increased final dividend of 7p (6p) lifts the net total from 11p to 12p, absorbing £1.01m (£924,000).

After dividend payments the retained surplus totalled £3m, an improvement of £1.22m over 1981-82.

Allowing for current cost adjustments profits before tax amounted to £3.48m (£2.08m) and on the same basis earnings per share were 15p (4.3p)

During the past year group liquid funds, net of bank borrowings, increased by £2.2m to £7.2m.

Duple losses rise

Losses, before tax, of Duple International were almost doubled at £833,000 for the six months to February 28, 1983, against £424,000 last time. The directors are forecasting full year losses of around £1.4m (£995,000) including exceptional costs of £430,000 (£324,000).

The expected group trading loss for the current year is about the same as that sustained in the previous year, but the forecast of interest charges is almost doubled.

Halftime interest payments were £318,000 (£149,000). Tax credits decreased from £279,000 to £124,000 and loss per 25p share came out at 6.9p, against 1.41p. There is again no interim dividend—last year only a final of 0.07p net was paid.

Referring to the offer for the group from Hestair, the directors say they believe it would be in the best interests of shareholders that the business of Duple should be merged into a larger group, which is currently trading profitably and which has a stronger balance sheet.

The directors have unanimously resolved to recommend shareholders to accept the Hestair offer. In order to reduce the expenses of the offer payable by Hestair, it is proposed that a reorganisation should be effected of Duple's share capital.

J. & J. Dyson loss

A loss of £553,000 has been incurred by J. and J. Dyson, maker of refractory materials and articulated trailers, for the year ended March 31, 1983, compared with a profit of £329,000 previously. The dividend is again 2p per share.

There is a tax credit of £356,000 (£340,000) and a £766,000 (£1m) profit on sale of assets, less works closure and redundancy costs £166,000 (£212,000).

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Edinburgh American

Pre-tax profits of Edinburgh American Assets Trust rose from £105,000 to £332,000 in the first half of 1983.

Franked income totalled £98,000 (£134,000) and unfranked £991,000 (£788,000), while underwriting commission was £1,000 (same) and interest took £758,000 (£818,000).

Tax absorbed £151,000 (£100,000), leaving the balance available at £173,000 (£3,000 loss) and earnings per 25p share are stated at 0.46p (0.01p loss). The directors say that the net revenue account for the full year is expected to be similar to that for 1982.

The net asset value per share, after deducting all prior charges at par, is 273.1p (129.2p) undiluted and 244.2p (116p) fully diluted.

Elbief slips

Elbief, the ladies handbag-frame maker, fell from taxable profits of £353,410 to £292,810 in the year to April 30 1983 on turnover which slipped from £2.77m to £2.67m.

Earnings per 10p share were given as 1.67p (1.79p) and the final dividend is maintained at 1p net, making a same-again total of 1.385p.

Tax took £91,000 (£136,000).

Eldridge Pope

A jump of 87 per cent in pre-tax profits to £728,000 is reported by Eldridge, Pope & Co. for the half year to March 31, 1983. Turnover of this brewer, maltster and wine and spirit merchant rose from £8.35m to £9.28m.

During the period beer volumes increased and sales of wines and spirits moved ahead encouragingly. Looking to the second half, the directors say April trade was severely depressed. Margins are under acute pressure and much will depend on the weather and customers' disposable income.

The net interim dividend is stepped up from 5p to 5.5p per £1 share—last year's final was 6p, on £1.67m pre-tax profits.

Emap scrip

An improvement from £3.45m to £3.64m in pre-tax profit is reported by East Midland Allied Press group for the year ended April 2 1983. The dividend is lifted from 3.68p to 4p net with a final of 2.6p, and there is proposed a one-for-one scrip issue.

Turnover moved up from £47.97m to £54.19m. The profit was struck after charging £195,000 tax on expenses disallowed by the Inland Revenue for the past seven years, £196,000 redundancy costs and £100,000 (£59,000) for the employee share scheme.

Tax takes £1.32m (£740,000), minorities £32,000 (nil), and there is £512,000 (£325,000) extraordinary gain on the sale of the travel interests and three retail newsagents shops. Earnings were 9.3p (11p) per share.

Business and Computer Publications, the new division, has been the major area for expansion and now has 14 publications. In provincial newspapers part of last year's advertising volume loss was recovered. Revenue rose by 12 per cent although circulation sales continued to decline.

Ecclesiastical Ins.

For the year ended February 28 1983 pre-tax profits of Ecclesiastical Insurance Office improved from £2.44m to £2.56m. Mr Alan McLintock, chairman, says the company has acquitted itself well in a difficult year.

Gross written premiums on general insurance rose by 16.7 per cent to £32.36m. Although the underwriting loss increased to £581,000 this was more than offset by 17.9 per cent growth in investment income.

Life business, which is operated on a mutual basis, increased by 25.9 per cent to £6.74m. As an interim measure capital bonuses have been stepped up by 50 per cent.

A further 3m ordinary and 7m preference shares have been created. The ordinary will be issued to the parent company while the preference may be offered for sale to the general public at a later date.

Electric & General

An improvement in earnings from 3.2p to 3.45p per share was achieved by Electric and General Investment in the year ended May 3, 1983. The dividend is lifted to 2.65p (2.65p) with a final of 1.75p.

Gross income amounted to £1.46m (£1.25m). At the year end net asset value per share stood at 234.3p (155.2p).

Electrocomponents

With a final dividend of 2p, Electrocomponents is lifting the total for the year ended March 31, 1983 from 2.2p to 3p net.

Sales rose from £78.5m to £101.23m and profit before tax from £15.74m to £17.44m. This year's figure was struck after charging £1.2m for staff redundancy and relocation, parallel working and costs of operating temporary premises in Corby. The only activities still in London are order office and customers records, and these will move next year.

Eletronic Rentals

AFTER TAKING account of £2.4m losses on discontinued activities, profits before tax of Electronic Rentals Group for the year ended March 31 1983 have fallen from £15.56m to

Continued

Dividends announced

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
AAH	3.41	—	3.1	5.62	5.2
AB Engineering	0.33	—	0.28	0.65	0.55
Acrow	Nil	—	0.38	Nil	0.38
AE int.	Nil	—	0.8	—	1.4
Aeronautical and Gen	4.5	—	3.5	4.5	3.5
AIM Group	3.85	Oct 1	3.85	5.75	3.85
Alexanders Discount int.	6.5	Oct 3	6.5	—	20
Allied Colloids	2.4	Oct 8	2*	3.05	2.59*
Allnat London	5.2	Sept 7	4.2	6.2	5.2
Amalg Distilled	1.75	Oct 3	1.25	2.75	2
Aitken Hume	2.75	Oct 3	2.18*	3.63*	3*
Airflow Streamlines	0.5	July 26	0.25	0.75	0.25
Alliance Inv	2.12	July 20	1.97	3.12	2.97
Allied-Lyons	3.85	July 29	3.5	6.05	5.5
Allied Plant	Nil	—	0.07*	Nil	0.07*
Allied Textile int	2.82	Oct 4	2.82	—	7.24
Alpine Soft Drinks	1.21	July 22	2.64	2.41	3.85
Amber	2.5	Aug 5	2	3.5	3
AMEC	6.5b	Aug 31	—	9	5.5
Amersham Intl.	2.55	Oct 5	2.1	4.2	2.1
Anderson Strathclyde	6	Nov 30	4.9	8	6
Anglia TV int.	2.5	Aug 5	2.5	—	6.5
Anglo-Amer. Secs. int.	1.5	Aug 25	1.5	—	5.1
H. Ansbacher	0.35	—	0.35	0.35	0.35
Applied Computer	1	—	0.5	1.3	0.7
Argyll Foods	2.5	—	—	3.75	3.25
Ariel Inds.	Nil	—	0.81	Nil	1.35
Arlington Motor	4	—	2.5	6.5	5
Ashdown Inv. Tst. int.	2.1	Aug 12	2.1	—	6.9
Ashley Industrial int.	Nil	—	1.5	—	5(g)
Asprey & Co.	10	—	9*	16	14*
Assam-Dooars	6	—	6	6	6
Assoc. Newspapers int.	4.5	Aug 25	4.5	—	10.4
Assoc. Fisheries int.	0.25	July 29	0.25	—	2.25
Assoc. Heat	6	Aug 26	—	9	—
Astra Industrial	0.4	Sept 16	0.4	0.53	0.53
Atkins Bros	3.65	July 29	3.65	5	5
Atlantic Assets	0.3	—	0.3	0.3	0.3
Automated Security int	0.4	Nov 15	0.35*	—	0.88*
Avana Group	4.5	Oct 5	3.6	7.5	6
Baker Perkins	3	Aug 15	3	5.1	5.1
Baker's Stores int	0.65	Aug 4	0.65	—	1.65
Bank Leumi (UK) int	3.15	—	3.15	—	10.15
Sidney C. Banks	5	—	4.6	7.5	6.75
Barclays Bank int	11.5	—	11	—	22
Barlows	8.5	July 13	6	8.5	6
A. G. Barr int.	1.75	—	1.75	—	5.87
Baraoora Tea int.	3.5	July 27	3.5	3.5	3.5
Bassett Foods	2.76	—	2.5	3.76	3.5
Barlow Holdings int.	1	—	1	—	4
Batleys	1.9	Aug 24	1.8	2.4	2.3
John Beales	2	—	1	3	1.5
Beecham Group	5	Aug 19	4.3	9.1	8
Beechwood Grp.	1	Aug 5	1	1.5	1.5
Benlox	0.5	—	0.5	0.5	0.5
Berisfords int.	1.4	Sept 2	1.4	—	4.4
S. & W. Berisford int.	3	Oct 7	3	—	9
Bespak	2‡	—	—	2	—
BET	8.14	Oct 3	6.14	10	8
Bett Bros. int.	1	Aug 15	1.2	—	3.1
D. F. Bevan	0.25	Oct 3	0.75	0.25	1
J. Bibby int.	2.24	—	1.23*	—	4.67*
Birmid Qualcast int.	0.33	Sept 14	0.1	—	1
Birmingham Mint	7.5	Sept 9	7.5	10.5	10.5
Bishop's Group	1.5	July 7	3	3	4
Black Arrow	2	Oct 3	1.75	3	2.75
Michael Black	2.5‡	—	—	3	—
Peter Black Hldgs.	1.75	Oct 10	1.64*	2.63	2.48*
Blundell-P'rmoglaze int.	1.6†	Oct 3	1.6	—	6
John Booth & Sons	1	—	Nil	1	Nil
Bootham Engineers int.	Nil	—	Nil	—	6
BPB Industries	7	Aug 19	6	12	10.5
Bradford Property	3.	Aug 5	3	5.5	5
Braham Millar	0.6	—	0.3	1	0.6
Braithwaite	5.1	Oct 1	5.1	9.1	8.1
Brasway	Nil	—	1.11*	1	2.77*
Brengreen	0.55	Oct 3	0.4	1	0.8
Brickhouse Dudley	2.25	Aug 5	2.25	3.2	3.2
Bristol Post	12	—	11.75	16	15.75
Bristol Stadium	0.9	Aug 5	0.75	0.9	0.75
Brit. Amer. Film	2.5	—	2.31	3.75	3.31
B. & C. Shipping	8.5	Aug 8	6.82*	15.5	12.27*
British Building	1	—	0.5	1.75	1
British Dredging	1	Aug 22	0.5	1	0.5
British Land	1.25	—	0.5	1.25	0.5
British Steam	3.5	July 29	3.5	5.5	5.5
British Tar	1.88	Aug 11	1.68	2.4	2.2
Bromsgrove Casting	1.5	—	1.5	2.25	2.25
Brown & Jackson	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	0.25
Brown & Tawse	3.15	Aug 11	2.8*	3.86	3.5*
John Brown	Nil	—	4.25	Nil	4.25
N. Brown Invests.	4	Aug 5	4	6	6
Brownlee	2.8	July 14	3	4.3	3.7
Brown Shipley	5	July 30	4.25	7.75	7
Brunner Inv. Tst. int.	1.7	—	1.45	—	3.35
Brunning Group	2.8	—	2.8	4.73	4.38
Bullough int.	3	Sept 14	2.35	—	6.75
H. P. Bulmer	2.24	Sept 12	1.34	4.2	2.52
Burnett Halamshire	9.5†	Aug 5	7.5	17.5	14
Buffelsfontein	330**	—	280	590	540
A. F. Bulgin	0.77	Aug 19	0.77	1.35	1.35
Bulmer & Lumb	2.17	July 29	2.17	3.82	3.82
Burco Dean int.	0.1	Aug 9	Nil	—	Nil
Burns-Anderson int.	0.7	Aug 12	0.6	—	2
Butterfield-Harvey	0.5	Oct 4	0.1	0.5	0.1
Cable and Wireless	5	Oct 1	4	8.2	6.6
Caffyns	2.3	—	2.3	4.5	4.5
Caledonia Inv.	9	Aug 10	7.73*	15.5	13.18*
Caledonian Cinemas	7	Sept 8	7	9	9
Capital Gearing	0.25	—	0.25	0.25	0.25
Carclo Eng.	3.25	Sept 2	2.6	4.55	3.9
Cardiff Prop. int.	0.6	—	0.6	—	1.6
Cardinal Invest. int.	1.3	Oct 3	1.3	—	3.65
Carless Capel	1.75	July 29	1.75	2.75	2.75
Carlton Comms.	1.6	July 30	—	—	
Carroll Inds. int.	2.7	July 22	2.7	—	7.4
Carr's Milling int.	1.75	June 30	1.75‖	—	4.75
Castlefield (Klang) int.	4	Aug 4	4	—	14
Castings	2	Aug 13	2	2	2
Celestion Inds.	1	Sept 3	1	1	1
Centrovincial Ests.	2.5	Oct 3	2	5	4
Century Oils	2.4	Aug 6	2.4	3.4	3.4
Chamberlain Phipps	2.2		2.2	3.3	3.3
Chapman Inds.	5.5	July 28	4.5	7.5	6.5
Charter Trust int.	0.93	July 29	0.93	—	3.7
Chemring int.	3	July 8	2.5	—	6.2
C. H. Industrials	1.45	Sept 15	0.49	1.7	1.4
Chubb & Son	4	Aug 26	3.48	5.95	5.43
Churchbury Est	9.5	Aug 1	8.5	14.5	13
City of Dublin Bank int.	0.96	Aug 12	0.88	—	2.89
Clyde Blowers int.	0.83	—	0.83	—	6.2
A. Cohen	5.67	—	5.15	8.4	6.75
Comet int.	2	July 29	1.47	—	4.4
Computer Systems	2.36	July 27	—	3.94‡‡	—
Consults. Computer‡ int.	1.8	—	—	—	3
Continental Ind.	10.3	Aug 5	9	14.3	13
Continuous Statny.	1.7	Aug 4	1.7	2.15	2.15
Control Secs.	1.58	—	1.58	3.15	2.76*
Wm. Cook	1.3	Sept 16	0.2	1.5	0.5

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Country and New Town	0.7	—	0.65	1	0.9
Country Gentlemen's	8.25	—	6.25*	8.25	6.25*
Countryside Props. int.	1.68	Sept 9	1.54	—	4.24
Craig & Rose	39	—	37	47	45
Cray Electronics	1.32	Nov 11	0.99	1.76	1.35*
Cronite int.	Nil	—	0.7	—	1.5
James Cropper	2.5	Aug 10	2	3.5	3
Crosby Woodfield	0.05	Sept 16	0.05	0.05	0.05
Crown House	3.5	—	3	5.75	5.25
Crest Nicholson int.	1.25	Oct 7	1.25	—	3.15
CSC Invest. Trust int.	3.5	Sept 22	3.25	—	7.75
Cullen's Stores	3.6	—	3.6	4.3	4.3
Godfrey Davis	2.5	Aug 12	2.5	4	4
Daejan Holdings	3.83	—	2.83	5.75	4.75
Daily Mail Trust int.	12	—	11	—	31
Danae Invest. sec. int.	2.4	—	2.4	4	4
Davy Corp.	2.59	Oct 7	5.17	3.69	7.37
Dawson Intnl.	4.3	Aug 25	4	6.5	6
Andre de Brett	1.5‡	—	1.5	2.5	1.5
Derby Trust int.	11.08	Aug 31	10.61	—	22.14
George Dew int.	2.3	Sept 23	2.3	—	5.7
Dewhurst & Partner int.	0.23	Oct 3	0.15	—	0.45
De La Rue	16.9	July 29	15.48	23.5	22.08
Distillers Company	8.5	Oct 7	8.75	13	11.75
Dixons Group	2.64	Oct 17	2.4	4.09	3.78
Dobson Park int.	1.9	Aug 18	1.9	—	5.21
Dom Holdings	2.8	Oct 3	2.8	4.28	4.28
Dominion Intnl.	2†	—	2	4	3.75
Downs Surgical	0.3	—	0.3	0.3	0.3
Dunhill Holdings	7	July 28	6	12	11
Dominion & Gen 2nd int.	9.4	July 12	8.5	12.9	11.5
Dowty Group	2.25	Oct 10	2.15	3.9	3.7
Drake & Scull int.	1.25	Sept 6	1.25	—	3.25
Drayton Far East. int.	0.4	Aug 24	0.4	—	0.85
Drayton Japan int.	1	Aug 26	2	—	8.5t
Drayton Premr. int.	3	Sept 7	3	—	11
Duple Intnl. int.	Nil	—	Nil	—	0.07
Dweq Group	Nil	—	0.24	Nil	0.24
J. & J. Dyson	2	—	2	2	2
Elbief	1	Oct 22	1	1.39	1.39
Eldridge Pope	5.5	—	5	—	11
Electro Components	2	—	1.35	3	2.2
Electric & Gen.	1.75	—	1.6	2.85	2.65
Electronic Rentals	2.07	July 29	3.14	3.23	4.31
B. Elliott	Nil	—	Nil	—	2
Ellis & Everard	4	Oct 7	3.64*	6.5	5.91*
Elswick-Hopper	0.03	Aug 4	0.03	0.03	0.03
Emap	2.6	—	2.53	4	3.68
Energy Finance	0.71	—	0.71	1.31	1.31
English China int.	3.25	July 20	3	—	8.2
Equipu	2.2‡	—	2	3.4	3.1
ERF (Holdings)	Nil	—	0.1	Nil	0.1
Espley-Tyas int.	1.65	Nov 14	1.5	—	4.2
Estates & Agency	2	July 17	1	2	1
Eurothem Intl. int.	1	—	1*	—	3.25*
Evans of Leeds	1.38	—	1.25	2.63	2.25
Evode int.	0.71	Sept. 29	0.59	—	2.03
Feedback	‡1.5	Aug. 23	1.0	2.5	2.0
J. H. Fenner int.	2	—	3.63	—	9
Ferguson Indl.	†3.5	—	3.5	5.7	5.7
Ferranti	3.7	—	2.75*	5.5	4.25*
James Finley 2nd int.	2.9	July 27	2.5	4.9	4.5
G.M. Firth	1.8	—	1.5	3.3	3
Fitch Lovell	5.83	Oct. 3	3.97	8	5.46
FKI Electricals	0.2‡	—	—	—	—
Fleming Fledgling int.	1	Sept. 1	1	—	2.25
Rbt. Fleming Hldgs.	23	Aug. 11	18	31	25
Fleming Claverhse. int.	2.25	Sept. 30	2.25	—	6.95
Fleming Overseas 2nd int.	4	Aug. 26	4	7	7
Flexello Castors int.	Nil	—	0.7	—	0.7
Fobel	1.4	—	1.2	2.4	1.4
Martin Ford int.	0.35	Oct. 5	0.25	—	0.75
Forshaws Brewery	6.59	—	3.8	8.63	5.75
Thos. French int.	3	Aug. 26	2.25	—	6
Fuller Smith	6	Aug. 4	5	10	8
Garford-Lilley	1.44	Aug. 5	1.25	1.69	1.5
GB Papers	1.5	—	nil	1.5	nil
GEC	2	—	1.71	3	2.55l
General Funds Inv. int.	2.75	Sept. 15	2.5	—	8.25
General Cons. int.	2.4	Aug. 8	2.4	—	7
GEI Intl.	3.56	Aug. 8	3.56	5.32	5.32
Gestetner int.	0.5	Sept. 14	1.25	—	1.32
Glasgow Stockhldrs int.	1.05	Aug. 18	1	—	2.5
Glass Glover int.	1.25	Sept. 30	1.13	—	3
Gnome Photographic	4.5	—	4.5	4.5	4.5
Gordon & Gotch	4.5	Oct. 3	4.5	7.5	7.5
Glossop	3.51	—	3.51	5.08	5.08
Glynwed int.	2.45	—	2.45	—	7.35
Granada int.	2.1	—	1.92	—	5.28
Graig Shipping	20	Sept. 17	20	30	30
Gt. Portland Est.	4	Sept. 1	3.43*	5	4.29*
Greene, King	2.65	—	2.35*	3.95	3.55*
Greenfield Leisure int.	0.25	July 15	0.25	—	1.25
Gresham House Sec. int.	2.6	—	2.6	4	4
Greycoat City	0.65	—	1	1.15	1
Grindlays Hldgs. int.	1.25	—	1.25	—	4.38
Grootvlei **int.	65	—	36	—	116
G.T. Global	2.75	July 16	2.75	3.5	3.5
Grainger Trust ‡int.	1	July 20	0.64*	—	3.36*
Arthur Guinness int.	1.66	Aug. 11	1.58	—	5.23
GUS	9	Dec. 22	8.25	14	13
Habit Precision int.	Nil	—	nil	—	0.25
Habitat Mothercare	4	—	2.8	4‡‡	4¶
Hadland‡ int.	0.84	July 20	0.84	—	2.52
Hales Properties	2.08	Sept. 2	2.33*	3.42	3.33*
Hallite	7.5	Oct. 3	7	11.5	11
Halma	1.08	Aug. 19	0.9	1.75	1.46
Hambro Trust	4.03	—	4.12	5.62	5.71
Hambros	37.5	—	37.5	52.75	52.75
Hambros Inv. Tst.	2.4	—	2.3	3.4	3.3
Hampson	0.5	—	0.5	0.75	0.75
Hanson Trust int.	2	July 29	1.67*	—	4*
Hardys & Hansons int.	4.2	Aug. 1	4	—	13
Hargreaves	2.25	July 28	2	4	3.6
Philip Harris	4.75	Aug. 25	5.05	6.75	6.5
Harrisons & Crosfield	23.5	July 29	20.5	31	28
Haslemere Ests.	6	Oct. 6	5.25	7.9	6.9
H.A.T. Group	1.5	Oct. 3	1.38	3	2.75
Hazlewood Foods	5.5	Oct. 3	4.7	9.5	8
Henlys int.	Nil	—	nil	—	0.1
Hickson Intnl. int.	3	Aug. 31	2.5	—	7.5
Hillards	2.8	Oct. 7	2.25	4	3.25
Hill Samuel	6.3	July 18	5.5	9.1	8
Hogg Robinson	3	—	3	6	6
Hollas Group	1	Oct. 1	2	2	3
Howden	3.38	Oct. 3	2.94	4.84	4.4
Hunterprint ‡int.	1.2	Sept 2	—	—	2
ICC Oil Services	0.02	Aug 30	0.01	0.02	0.01
IC Gas	7.6	Aug 19	6.2	10.6	9.2
Illingworth Morris	nil	—	0.75	nil	0.75
ICI int.	10	Oct 10	9	—	19
Imperial Group int.	2.75	Nov 1	2.75	—	7.25
Inchcape	11	July 22	11	18.15	18.15††
Independent Invst.	0.5	Sept 26	0.5	0.5	0.5
Initial	9	Aug 8	7.5	12.75	10.75
Intl. Signal	0.02	—	—	—	—
Intasun Leisure	2.6	Aug 26	2.1	4	3.5
"Invstg. in Success" int.	1.26	Oct 3	1.2	—	5.18
Investment Co.	1.75	Aug 1	1.75	1.75	1.75
Investors Capital Tst int.	1.5	Sept 2	1.5	—	3.35

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Jacksons Bourne End	3	—	3	5	5
J. & H. B. Jackson int.	0.75	—	0.75	—	1.65
J. I. Jacobs int.	1	Oct 20	0.7	—	2.6
Jamesons Chocolates int.	2	Nov 4	2	—	5
J. Jarvis	8.8	—	8.3	16	15
Jermyn Invst.	1.63	—	1.36	1.63	d1.63
Johnson Matthey	7	Aug 3	7	10	10
Johnstone's Paints‡ int.	1.77	Oct 21	1.77	—	3.77
Ernest Jones int.	1.4	Aug 17	1.4	—	3.9
Leopold Joseph	9.38	—	8.58	11.25	10.45
Thomas Jourdan int.	1.75	Oct 3	1.75	—	5.6
R. Kelvin Watson	2.7	—	2.2	4	3.5
Kenning Motor int.	2.5	Oct 1	1.75	—	5.5
Keystone Invest. int.	4	—	4	—	10
Killinghall (Rubber) int.	2	Aug 4	2	—	10
Kinta Kellas Rubber	03.5	—	3.5	5	0.5
Kleen-E-Ze	2	Aug 30	1.5	3	3
Ladies Pride int.	0.5	Oct 3	1.4	—	3.4
Lake and Elliot int.	nil	—	1	—	1
James Latham	6.65	—	4.65	10	8
Law Debenture int.	2	—	2	—	4.5
Law Land	1.6	Aug 1	1.35	2.3	a2
L.C.P. Holdings	1.8†	Aug 12	1.8	3.6	3.6
Arthur Lee int.	0.3	July 29	0.3	—	0.6
John J. Lees	2	—	1.9	2.8	2.6
Leda Inv. Tst. int.	2.03	Aug 31	1.47	—	4.76
Leigh Interests	0.5	—	3.8	1	5.63
Lennons	0.6	Aug 27	1.8	0.85	2.65
Lep Group	13.5	Aug 12	13.5	17.5	17.5
Lex Service int.	3.75	Sept 14	3.1	—	8.1
Lincroft Kilgour int.	1	Sept 1	nil	—	2
Linfood	10	Oct 3	7	16	12
F. H. Lloyd	1	—	1	1	1
Lloyds Bank int.	10.66	Sept 2	9.92	—	24.58
Thomas Locker	0.92	July 22	0.92	1.29	1.17
London & Assd.	0.17	—	nil	0.17	nil
London & Midland	4.85	—	4.85	7.75	7.75
Lon. Scot. Finance int.	0.75	July 29	0.6*	—	2.13*k
Longton Industrial	1	Oct 22	1	1	1
Lonrho int.	3	Oct 3	3	—	9
Lookers int.	1.4	—	1.4	—	3.85
Y. J. Lovell int.	1.25	Oct 1	1.13	—	4.5
Robert Lowe int.	nil	—	0.66	—	3.26
LRC	2.2	Oct 3	2.05	3.25	2.75
Lynton Holdings	2.93	July 12	2.1	4.75	3.75
Macarthys Pharms.	5	Oct 1	5	7	7
D. Macpherson int.	1.5	Sept 1	1.5	—	4.2
Magnet & Southerns	2.2	Oct 1	2*	3.9	3.33*
Malaysia Rubber	3.5	Oct 7	2.5	4.5	3.5
M. & G. Dual Trust int.	10	Sept 2	9.4	—	21.75
Mansfield Brewery	4.65	—	3.75	6.75	5.25
Marievale int.	24**	—	16	—	41
Marley int.	1.2	Oct 3	1	—	2.5§
Marling Inds.	0.61	Oct 11	0.61	1.08	1.08
Marshalls Halifax	5	—	4	6	5
Marston, Thompson	1.56	—	1.37	2.33	2.07
Martin the Newsgnt. int.	2.4	July 5	2.18*	—	5.78*
May & Hassell	2.5	Aug 22	1.5	3.8	2.8
McLeod Russel	10	—	7.5	10	7.5
McCorquodale int.	3.75	July 25	3.25	—	9
MEPC int.	2	July 14	2	—	7.25
Meldrum Invst. Tst. int.	1.4	Sept 2	1.35	—	3.75
Mercantile House	15	Sept 19	—	20	14
Mercury Secs.	9.5	—	7.7	9.5	7.7
Metal Box	6.51	July 29	6.51	11.55	11.55
Meyer Intnl	2.25	—	—	3.75	—
MFI Furniture	2.3	Oct 3	1.7	3.7	2.8
Microgen int	2‡	Aug 1	—	—	—
Midland Bank int	11§	Nov 7	8	—	25.5
Midland Trust	4.17	—	3.85	6.76	6.3
Mid Wynd Intnl	1	—	0.8	1.8	4.01q
Mitchell Somers	1.75	—	1.75	3.25	3.25
MK Electric	5.25	—	4.5*	8	7*
A. Monk	4.5	—	2.5	6	3.5
Moorgate Inv Tst int	6.05	Sept 5	5.45	8.8	8.05
Moorgate Mercantile	0.8	—	0.7	1.1	1
Morland Secs	2‡	—	2	2	2
Moorside Trust int	1	Sept 2	1	—	3.5
Robert Moss	1.34	July 14	1.2	2	1.8
Mountleigh Group	4.5†	Oct 3	3	5.5	4
Mountview Estates	3	Aug 19	2.5	3.7	3.2
Muirhead int	2	Aug 22	2	—	4
Multitone Electronics	1.52	—	—	2.52	1.88
Munton Bros	1.5	—	1	3	2.5
Murray Northern	1.4	Sept 14	1.35	2	1.95
Murray Technology	0.75	Aug 11	0.75	0.75	0.75e
Nash Inds int	1.5	Sept 16	1.5	—	4
Nat Westminster int	11.4	—	10.6	—	29
Neepsend	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.1
New Court Nat Res	1.2‡	—	1	1.2	1
Nolton	0.4	—	nil	1	nil
Norcros	4.24	—	3.92	6.32	5.88
Norfolk Capital int	nil	—	nil	—	0.2
Northern Foods int	2.25	Aug 26	2	—	5.75
Northern Secs	3	July 28	4	5	5
Norton Opax	1.5	—	1*	2.16*	1.33*
Nottingham Brick int	4§	Aug 15	2	—	7.3
Nottingham Mnfg int	1.35	Dec 1	1.2	—	5.1
Nova (Jersey) Knit	1.5	Oct 3	3	4	5.5
Oakwood int	2	Aug 20	2	—	6.5
Ocean Wilsons	2.2	Aug 25	2.2	2.95	2.95
Oceonics	1.5‡	—	—	1.5	—
Oil and Assoc Inv	3.15	—	2.8	4.38	3.85
Pactrol Electronics	3	July 29	—	4.5	—
Panther Secs	5	—	nil	5	nil
Parkdale	0.8	Sept 8	0.4	0.8	0.4
J. T. Parrish	nil	—	4	nil	4
Paterson Jenks	2.1	Oct 3	1.71	2.8	2.33
Pauls and Whites	5.5	July 30	5.25	8	7.5
Pegler-Hattersley	7.85	Aug 5	6.75	11.85	10.75
Petbow Holdings	nil	—	1	nil	1
Phillips Patents	1.25	—	1	1.25	1
P H Industrials	3.5	—	—	5	3.5p
Pilkington sec int	5.5	Aug 18	5.5	10.5	10.5
Plastic Constn int	0.84	Sept 19	0.84	—	2.17
Plaxtons int	3	July 2	3	—	8.5
Plysu	1.75	—	1.41*	2.5	2.1*
Alfred Preedy	2.75	Oct 3	2.75	3.5	3.5
Benjamin Priest	0.1	—	1	0.1	1
Property Partnerships	3.5	Aug 5	3.1	6.25	5.6
Prop and Reversionary	2.5	July 16	2.3	3.5	3.3
Property Hldg	2.52	—	2.15	4	3.5
Racal Elect	4.11	Aug 17	3.74	5.51	5.01
Radiant Metal	1	—	1	1	2
Raeburn Inv int	3.25	Aug 8	3	—	7.9
Rank Organisation int	4	Nov 1	4.8	—	8
Wm Ransom	5	Sept 19	5	6.5	6.5
Ratners	1.63	Oct 3	1.63	2.3	2.3
Readicut	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.1
Redland	5.14	—	4.67	8.08	7.34
Reed Internl	10	Aug 16	10	14	14
Regallan Props	1.25	—	1	1.25	1
Regional Props sec int	2.1	July 25	1.7	3	2.5
Rembia Rubber	0.5	—	0.75	0.5	0.75
Renold	nil	—	2	nil	2
Rexmore	0.78	Oct 4	0.53	1.3	1.05
RFD Group	2.24	Sept 12	2	3.08	2.8

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
RIT and Northern	4.6	—	4.6	8.8p	6.6
River and Mercantile int	1.4	—	1.33*	—	4.13*
River Plate and Gen int	1.4	Sept 5	1.4	—	6
Riverview Rbr...2nd int	5	Aug 18	5	—	18
Romney Trust int.	§1.5	—	1.3	—	4.4
Rotaprint	0.1	July 1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Rothmans Intl	4	Oct 4	3.25	5.3	4.4
Routledge & Kegan	nil	—	2	nil	3
Rowlinson Secs	0.47	—	0.43	0.65	0.61
Rowton Hotels	3.85	—	3.85	7	7
G. Ruddle‡	2.2	—	—	3.3	1.59
Alex Russell	1.2	—	0.96	1.85	1.5
Saatchi & Saatchi int	2.82	—	2.33*	—	5.8*
St. Andrew Tst int	2.5	Oct 3	2.5	—	6.7
St Helena **int	250	—	145	—	425
Scapa Group	4.6	Aug 19	4.1	7.6	7.1
Scotcros sec int	3.39	Aug 2	3.39	5.52	5.52
Scott & Robertson	0.75	July 12	0.75	0.75	0.75
Scot American Inv int	1.5§	—	1.4	—	4.62
Sco. & Newcastle	3.16	Aug 29	2.88	4.66	4.38
Scott's Restaurant	3	—	2	3	2
Scruttons	2.5	—	2.5	4	4
Security Centres	1.1†	Oct 3	0.9	1.85†	1.5
SGB Group int	2.3	Sept 15	2.3	—	5.6
Shaw Carpets	1.5	Sept 5	0.1	1.5	0.1
Sheffield Brick	nil	—	0.75	nil	0.75
Siebe Gorman	5.75	—	5.23	8.5	7.74
Sidlaw int	5	Aug 10	2.5	—	12
Silverthorne int	0.5	Sept 23	0.5	—	1.75a
Singlo	0.65	Oct 3	0.55*	1.45	1.25*
600 Group	2.91	July 30	2.91	5.25	5.25
Sketchley	8.4†	—	7.3	12	10.5
Slaters Food	1.2‡	—	—	1.2	—
J. Smart & Co int	1.1	July 11	1.1	—	3.95
Smith Bros	2†	Oct 31	0.5	3	1
David S. Smith	1	Oct 3	4.5	3.5	7
Sogomana	17r	—	32	20	35
Somic	0.5	July 5	1	0.5	1
Wm Sommerville	3.95	—	1	4.5	1.55
Sotheby's	nil	—	0.1	—	0.1
Southend Stadium	0.5	—	0.47	0.5	0.47
Speyhawk int	2	July 28	2	—	7
Spring Grove int	nil	—	1.5	—	4
Standard Fireworks	6.75	Sept 9	5*	6.75	5*
Standard Secs int	1	Aug 24	—	—	0.19
STC int	2.75	Oct 3	2*	—	6*
Staveley Inds	8.5	Aug 9	8.5	13	13
Stavert Zigomala	6.72	—	6.3	6.72	6.3
Stead & Simpson	3.25	Aug 3	2.85	4.25	3.85
Steinberg Group	1	Aug 31	0.02	1	0.02
Sterling Inds	1.45	Aug 12	1.3	1.95	1.75
Stilfontein int**	140	—	100	—	250
Stirling Gp	0.75	—	0.6	1.25	1
Stockholders Inv Tst int	1.75	—	1.75	—	3.85
Stonehill Hldgs	2	—	Nil	2	2
Jones Stroud	4n	—	3.2	6n	5.2
Stroud Riley	1.5	—	1.5	2.25	2.25
Sumrie Clothes	1.5	—	1.5	1.5	1.5
John Swan	8.5	Aug 23	8	8.5	8
Syltone	5.4	Oct 30	5.4	9	9
Symonds Engineering	0.56	Aug 12	0.56	0.79	0.79
Tace int	1	Sept 16	—	—	—
Tecalemit	0.8	Aug 5	0.8	1.6	1.6
Temple Bar Tst int	1.5	—	1.5	—	4.2
Tesco Stores	2.25	Aug 5	1.9	3.5	3
Tex Abrasives	2.5	Sept 15	2.5	3.25	3.25
Textured Jersey	2.25	Oct 10	2.25	4	4
Third Mile	0.88	—	0.88	0.88	1.58
Throgmorton Tst int	2.75	Aug 17	2.75	—	6.5
Thorn EMI	11.7	—	10.58	15.75	14.63
Time Products	Nil	—	0.68	Nil	1.13
F. H. Tomkins	0.93	—	0.58	1.5	1.35
R. W. Toothill	4	—	3.5	7	6.5
Town & City	0.45	Aug 6	0.01	0.7	0.01
Tozer Kemsley	Nil	—	0.3	Nil	0.6
TR City of Ldn 4th int	1.25	Aug 31	1.2	5	4.5
Trent Holdings	1.26	—	1.05	2.1	1.75
Tribune Inv. Tst. int.	1	Aug 19	0.9	—	3.4
Trident Television int	1.5	—	1.26	—	4.26
Triefus	0.13	—	0.63	0.13	0.63
Triplex Foundries	0.5	Aug 23	1	0.5	1
TR North America Inv	2.25	July 13	2.13*	3.25	3.13*
TR Trustees	2.1	—	1.9	3.2	3.0
TSL Thermal Synd int	Nil	—	1	—	1
Turnbull Scott	3	—	2	6	5
Trust House Forte int	2	Oct 3	1.5	—	7
UBM Group	1.2	July 7	1	2.2	2
UEH	0.65	—	0.35	1	0.92
Unigate	4.3	Oct 3	4	6.8	6.5
Union Discount int	11	Sept 1	11	—	31
Unitech	2.7	Oct 3	2.45*	4.24	3.35*
United Computer	1.1	Sept 23	0.8	1.1	0.8
United Guarantee	0.5	—	Nil	0.75a	Nil
Valor	2.57	—	2.18	3.5 †	3.02
Vantage Secs int	0.35	—	0.3	—	1.1
Vantona Viyella int	3	Oct 1	3	—	8
Vectis Stone int	0.6	Aug 5	0.6	—	1.8
Victorian Carpet	0.2	Sept 21	0.15	0.2	0.15
Vinten Group	1.65	Oct 3	1.4	2.45	2.1
Vosper int	2	—	2	—	5
John Waddington	0.5	—	0.5	0.5	0.5
Wagon Industrial	4	Oct 1	4	6	6
Walker & Staff	1.5	—	1.35	1.5	1.35
Warehouse Gp	3.13	—	2.5	3.13	2.5
Watsham's	8.35	Oct 21	7.25	12.1	11
Watson & Philip int	1.33	Aug 12	1.2	—	3.5
Joseph Webb	0.38	Oct 3	0.38	0.51	0.51
Wedgwood	2.68	Aug 1	2.68	4.43	4.43
Wellman	0.1	—	1.75	0.1	3.35
Western Board	5.3	Sept 22	4.5	7.3	6.5
Western Dooars Tea	4	—	—	4	4
Westland int	3	July 29	2.75	—	7.5
West Rand Consd int**	40	—	Nil	—	20
West's Group	4.2	—	5.4	4.2	8.4
Whatlings int	1.25	Sept 23	1	—	2.5
Wheeler's Rests	4.57	—	4.33	6.12	5.88
Whitecroft	3.75	Aug 9	3.1	5.4	4.5
Whittington Eng	2.8	Aug 26	2.1	4.2	3.5
Wiggins Group	2.15	—	1.85	3.4	3
Willoughby's Cons int	Nil	—	Nil	—	3.35
Winterbottom Engy int	0.2	July 29	0.2	—	0.65
Wintrust	2.6	Aug 1	2.35	3.91	3.55
Jonas Woodhead	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.1
Wyndham Engrg	1	Oct 14	1	1	1
Yeoman Investment int	2.5	—	2.5	—	7.25

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ USM stock. § Increase to reduce disparity. ¶ For 12 months. ‖ For 27 weeks. ** South African cents throughout. †† For 9 months. ‡‡ As forecast—equal to 3.15p annually. a For 15 months. b Special payment. c Irish pence throughout. d For 14½ months. e For 13½ months. f For 10 months. g For 17 months. h Malaysian currency throughout. j Includes bonus payment of 3 sen. k For 65 weeks. l Adjusted for sub-division. m Includes special 3p anniversary dividend. n Includes special 0.5p anniversary payment. o Plus 2p special payment. p For 16 months. q Including special 2.71p. r Including special 10p (25p). s For 14 months. t Includes special 3p payment.

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

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Continued

£12.09m. And the directors are cutting the dividend by 25 per cent—from 4.3097p to 3.2322p net per share, the final being 2.0655p.

The results were hit by the continuation of the decline in the number of colour television subscribers, a substantial increase in depreciation arising from the placement of video recorders, and the losses in the camping and leisure division where activities are being discontinued.

After providing for tax the reduced dividend is still not covered and the free reserves have suffered to the full extent of a £7.3m provision made against the camping and leisure activities. The latter weighed heavily in the decision to cut the dividend, the directors state.

However, there have been a number of positive trends. The drain in profits from camping and leisure have been stemmed. There is plenty of new business about, particularly relating to video recorders.

For the past year turnover, including discontinued activities, came to £200m, against £183m. Trading surplus improved £4m to £82.56m, but that had to stand a £10.35m upsurge to £59.62m in depreciation. Exceptional credits this time were only £805,000, compared with £2.27m.

After deducting cost of the employee share scheme, the net profit balance is £5.1m (£6.72m), equal to earnings of 2.3p (3.8p) basic per share. Net cash flow represented 30.7p (34.4p) per share.

B. Elliott

For the year ended March 31, 1983 machine tool and engineering products manufacturer, B. Elliott suffered much higher taxable loses of £4.84m, compared with £1.44m. Turnover was well down at £82.65m, against £105.21m.

With the omission, again, of a final payment there is no dividend for the year—last year an interim of 2p was paid. The directors say they expect to limit the interim for the current year to a nominal amount.

They state that with plans to reduce the group's working capital proving successful and the costs of rationalisation largely behind the company, directors expect to operate at a lower rate of loss in the current year.

There was a tax credit for the year of £327,000 (£899,000 charge) minority credits, £224,000 (£940,000 debits) and extraordinary debits of £950,000 (£2.49m).

A divisional breakdown of the pre-tax figure shows: UK manufacturing £1.9m (£1.96m); merchanting £109,000 profit (£805,000 loss); overseas—South Africa £744,000 loss (£3.64m profit); Canada and U.S. £1.15m loss (£2.58m loss); Australasia £757,000 loss (£210,000 profit); parent company £398,000 loss (£59,000 profit).

Ellis & Everard

Turnover of chemical merchant, Ellis and Everard, rose by £11.55m to £45m for the year to April 30, 1983, while pre-tax profits increased from £1.51m to £1.86m following the half-time rise from £803,000 to £919,000.

Net attributable profits came out at £1.27m (£981,000) and earnings per 25p share were up from a restated 11.1p to 14.2p. The final dividend is 4p net, which effectively raises the total payment to 6.5p (adjusted 5.909p). A one-for-ten scrip issue is proposed.

UK tax took £479,000 (£533,000) and overseas tax this time accounted for £83,000. There were minority debts of £35,000 (nil) and dividends absorbed £581,000 (£525,000).

The directors continue to have confidence about the company's future progress.

Elson & Robbins

For the six months ended March 1983 Elson and Robbins, manufacturer of Duflex springs and vinyl foam, came back into the black with £412,530 pre-tax on turnover of £8.98m. For the comparative first half the company suffered taxable losses of £177,797 on turnover of £8.16m.

After tax of £59,308 (£23,780) earnings per 25p share are shown as 3.41p (2.17p losses). The interim dividend is again omitted, but the group continues to make good progress and provided this continues throiughout the whole of the year the directors intend to return to the dividend list at the final stage.

Elswick-Hopper

A swing back into profit is reported by Elswick-Hopper for the year to March 31 1983. There were pre-tax profits of £128,000 compared with losses of £44,000. At halfway, profits of this manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, bicycles and specialist engineering products, were £19,000 against losses of £282,000.

The final dividend is unchanged for a same again total of 0.025p—no interim dividend was paid.

The chairman says it seems likely that the group's recovery will continue into 1983-84, although it appears that most, if not all, of the profit will be made in the second half. He says the agricultural division is showing increased momentum with sales for the period up by £2m to £12.5m, and trading profit up by £100,000 to £735,000.

Turnover for the year under review improved from £23.26m to £26.61m.

There was a tax credit of £90,000 (£76,000) and an extraordinary debit of £597,000 (£311,000). Stated earnings per 5p share were 0.58p (0.08p) before the extraordinary items.

Energy Finance

A fall in pre-tax profits from £505,000 to £323,000 is reported by Energy Finance and General Trust for the year to the end of March 1983. The pre-tax figure included associate profits of £47,000 against £117,000 and was struck after exceptional debits of £363,000 this time.

The net final dividend of this USM company has been held at 0.71p making a same-again total of 1.31p. Earnings per 10p share are shown as falling from 5.45p to 1.86p undiluted, and from 4.45p to 2.35p fully diluted.

Exceptional debits included an implied shortfall of £284,571 in certain oil and gas properties following a recent revaluation, plus an additional £78,183 written off on some other oil and gas wells, which was the excess of book value over net realisable value of remaining reserves.

Tax took £1.24m against £166,000. Attributable profits emerged down from £312,000 to £183,000.

Energy Services

Second half profits of Energy Services & Electronics fell from £801,000 to £449,000 and left this electric and electronic component manufacturer well down at £666,000 for 1982, against £1.51m for the previous year. Turnover rose from £13.43m to £15.52m.

The dividend is lifted, however, from 0.875p to 1p net per 10p share with a final of 0.6p (0.525p).

Tax charge at midway took £320,000 (£455,000), there were minority interests of £23,000 (£3,000), and extraordinary debits of £247,000 (nil) relating to Neve Audio stock write-downs and redundancy costs.

Before these items earnings per share are shown as 0.86p (2.8p) and after the same they are reduced to 0.2p.

English China

A decrease in pre-tax profits from £19.4m to £17.3m has been produced by English China Clays for the six months to the end of March 1983. Turnover increased sharply from £190.05m to £230.8m.

The net interim dividend has been lifted from 3p to 3.25p, although earnings per 25p share are shown as slipping from 8.88p to 7.23p. Last year a final of 5.2p was paid and the directors expect at least to maintain this.

Lord Aberconway, the chairman of English China Clays, where first-half taxable profits slipped by £2.1m

Losses in leisure rose sharply from £1.19m to £2.96m with home bookings being sluggish in peak periods. The directors expect a reasonable season. Most of the income from leisure arises in the second half.

The clay division had a difficult first half — pre-tax profits slipped from £13.65m to £11.46m. Strong competition and a wet winter hit results, but the directors say that markets are gradually recovering. Quarries had a good half year—pre-tax profits rose from £3.71m to £5.76m, and a good second half is expected.

English Property Corp.

For the six months to the end of December 1982 English Property Corporation produced increased pre-tax revenue of £2.5m against £1.7m.

Net property investment income amounted to £8.9m (£8.1m). Pre-tax results included property dealing last time of £400,000, lower interest and other income of £500,000 (£1.5m). Administration costs amounted to £1.8m (£1.4m) and interest was reduced from £6.9m to £5.1m.

Tax rose from £800,000 to £1.5m. The net interim of 7.57p has already been announced. The company is a subsidiary of Olympia & York Developments of Canada.

Equipu

As predicted at the interim stage at Equipu pre-tax profits have shown a fall for the year to April 30, 1983, with the taxable surplus slipping from £610,689 to £532,456. Turnover of this USM company which sells, leases and services office equipment expanded by 20 per cent to £6.68m.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 2p to 2.2p, making 3.4p for the year against 3.1p. Earnings per 10p share are shown as rising from 10.43p to 12.27p.

Directors have agreed to waive dividend entitlements of £66,347 (£92,945).

During the year the photocopying division increased its customer base by 45 per cent. Sales in the general business division were not good, and margins were under pressure. Steps have been taken to correct this situation.

There was a tax credit this time of £11.02m (charges £171,814). After dividends of £84,503 (£44,413) retained profits rose from £394,462 to £458,968.

Group profit after tax improved largely due to the high level of activity in the subsidiary leasing company Lease-It.

Equity Capital

Gross income of Equity Capital for Industry was £4.2m for the year ended March 31, 1983, representing a return on assets of 11 per cent. Income from investments increased by 50 per cent to £1.2m while the fall in interest rates and the further investments made, reduced interest on liquid funds by 16 per cent.

Investments totalling £4m were made during the year and the company has now invested £31m from its original subscribed fund of £41m.

ERF cuts loss

For the year ended April 2 1983 E.R.F. (Holdings), maker of heavy commercial vehicles and plastics, made a profit of £84,000, compared with a loss of £1.89m, after redundancy costs £202,000 (£516,000). Interest charges take £1.5m (£1.38m) to leave a pre-tax loss of £1.42m (£3.27m). The company passed its preference dividend due on April 30 and, therefore, there is no ordinary payment (0.1p).

The directors state that since lorry weights in the UK have been increased there has been an upturn in orders, with particular emphasis on the 38 tonne truck and a new 16 tonne model which is being launched in September. With savings made in operating costs directors believe the company will return to profitability, even at the present low level of production. "The outlook for 1983 appears to be more encouraging."

Tax takes £220,000 (£208,000) and there is an extraordinary credit of £140,000 being excess provisions for closure costs last year (debit £1.4m), to bring the available loss up to almost £1.5m (£4.88m). Loss per share is 23.33p (49.36p) and fully diluted 22.46p (47.67p).

Erskine House

Pre-tax profits of Erskine House Investments were little changed at £184,000, against £179,000 for the year ended March 31 1983 from lower turnover of £15.03m, compared with £16.4m. Also announced is a £2.3m net rights issue.

Directors propose to allot provisionally up to 2,541,019 new ordinary 100p shares on the basis of four-for-five.

There is again no dividend for the year but the company hopes to resume in the current year with a single distribution. Earnings per share, at the year end, are shown at 5p (5.6p).

Erskine has entered into conditional agreements to acquire, for a total minimum of £2.3m, Bristol Plain Paper Copiers, and Dreadnought Fire Extinguisher Company.

For the current year directors are budgeting for increased profits for Erskine's two existing businesses, PPR Security Group and Erskine Bureaux.

They are confident that the two acquisitions will lead to benefits for shareholders, although it is too early to make any forecast of profits for the enlarged group.

Espley-Tyas

Pre-tax profits of Espley-Tyas Property Group expanded from £1.2m to £1.3m in the six months to March 31, 1983, and the net interim dividend is being stepped up from 1.5p to 1.65p on earnings of 5.36p (6.21p) per 25p share.

Last year's total dividend distribution was 4.2p on profits of £2.77m.

The directors describe the mid-term performance as satisfactory, pointing out that the group assimilated the acquisition of Howard Tenens Services during the period.

They add that, on present indications, further progress should be made over the remainder of the year.

Turnover for the first half amounted to £28.8m (£23.16m) and, with tax taking £231,000 (£82,000), net profits emerged at £1.07m (£1.12m). There were minority losses of £62,000 (£399,000) and extraordinary debits of £451,000 (nil), principally comprised of the write-off of goodwill in accordance with the group's accounting policy.

This left the attributable balance at £680,000 (£720,000) and, after dividends costing £428,000 (£197,000), some £252,000 (£523,000) was retained.

Estates & Agency

Pre-tax profits of property investment company Estates & Agency Holdings rose from £121,000 to £324,000 for the 1982 year and the dividend is being doubled to 2p net per 25p share.

In a letter last September, advising shareholders not to accept the 120p cash offer from Rosedimond Holdings, the directors forecast profits of approximately £300,000 and said they intended to recommend a dividend of 1.5p.

Net rents received for the year totalled £1.17m (£776,000). Tax took £95,000 (£69,000) and extraordinary credits amounted to £148,000 (£358,000).

Earnings per share emerged at 3.75p (0.29p) and net assets per share at end-December were approximately 190p (approximately 140p) before deferred tax.

Eurotherm lower

Electronic equipment group Eurotherm International, rose from £17.1m to £18.76m for the six months to April 30 1983, but pre-tax profits were £0.6m lower at £1.65m.

In recent months there has been an increase in orders received and second-half profits are confidently expected to exceed the £2.3m made in the corresponding period last year.

The directors remain convinced that in the medium term the group will enjoy a satisfactory increase in the level of profitability.

Adjusted earnings per 10p share decreased from 4.84p to 3.76p, but the net interim dividend is effectively maintained at 1p—last year's total was 3.25p after adjusting for the one-for-one scrip issue.

Evans of Leeds

On higher revenue of £6.26m, compared with £5.92m, property investment and development group, Evans of Leeds pushed its pre-tax profits up by £696,000 to £3.9m for the year to March 31 1983.

Earnings per 25p share came through at 5.866p (5.019p) and the dividend is being increased from 2.25p to 2.625p net by a final of 1.375p. Shareholders' funds totalled £32.49m (£28.83m)

Everards Brewery

In the half year ended March 31, 1983 profit of Everards Brewery fell from £629,000 to £94,000, and this is "much in line" with the directors' expectations.

There has been a fall in budgeted sales since Christmas and "we need several weeks of really fine summer weather now if our sales forecasts are to be met. There are no obvious signs at present of the recession in our trading area (Leicestershire) coming to en end," they say.

Evode Group

On higher turnover of £22.93m compared with £20.35m, taxable profits of Evode Group, adhesives and joining compounds manufacturer, advanced from £597,000 to £865,000 in the first half to April 2, 1983.

At the same time as reporting the figures the company announced a rights issue of £3.98m nominal of 8 per cent cenvertible unsecured loan stock 2003-08 on the basis of £1 nominal for every four ordinary shares at par. Additionally it was proposed that £500,000 nominal of 8 per cent new cumulative preference shares would be subscribed at par by Equity Capital for Industry.

The interim dividend is being raised from 0.593p to 0.7116p net per 20p share and the directors expect a comparable increase in the final—last year a final of 1.44p was paid from pre-tax profits of £1.77m—but they say this should not be taken as indicative of dividend policy for future years. Earnings per share for the six months are given as 3.88p (3.52p).

Taxable profits were struck after interest of £411,000 (£322,000) and tax took £248,000 (£37,000).

F

Feedback up 32%

Feedback, manufacturer of computer peripheral equipment, reports pre-tax profits up by 32 per cent to £1.26m for the year ended March 31, 1983. This comfortably exceeds the level indicated at the interim stage when a rise from £381,514 to £434,308 was reported.

The dividend is raised from 2p per 10p share to 2.5p net, with a final of 1.5p. The shares are quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market. Earnings per share are shown to be 41 per cent higher at 9.86p.

The directors report that a record order book coupled with new product launches and more realistic exchange rates point to a year of continuing growth ahead.

Fenchurch Insurance

For the 12 months ended April 30, 1983 pre-tax profits of Fenchurch Insurance Holdings increased from £2.68m to £4.02m. Turnover for the period—year-end is changed to September 30 so the full period is for 18 months—expanded from £10.9m to £13m, split between brokerage £11.79m (£9.86m) and underwriting agency income £1.21m (£1.03m).

J. H. Fenner dives

A fall from £4.14m to £1.76m in pre-tax profits is reported by J. H. Fenner (Holdings), power transmission engineer, for the six months to February 26, 1983. The interim dividend is cut from 3.63p to 2p net—last year's total was 9p from pre-tax profits of £8.15m.

Turnover was lower at £68.99m compared with £69.95m. Trading profits were £4m against £6.13m. The pre-tax figure was struck after interest charges up from £1.98m to £2.2m and associates' losses of £45,000 (£9,000). Tax was cut from £2.19m to £1.21m.

Minorities accounted for £235,000 (£196,000) and there was an extraordinary debit of £550,000 (£39,000). Stated earnings per 25p share fell from 5.69p to 0.99p.

The board feels confident that cost reduction measures, which have been implemented at home and overseas, together with the company's strong development programme, will stand it in good stead.

Ferguson Industrial

Against the forecast of not less than £3.7m, Ferguson Industrial Holdings has made profits before tax of £3.82m for the year ended February 28 1983, and is paying the promised maintained final dividend of 3.5p net on capital increased by the recent one-for-four rights issue to hold the total at 5.7p. In the previous year the group made a profit of £3.42m.

Sales for the year went up from £108.06m to £119.2m. Earnings were shown at 14.3p (11.3p).

The current year has started well, particularly in the two main divisions—building supplies and printing and packaging. Restructuring on the giftware side has meant that the level of losses experienced in 1982-83 (£498,000) should not be repeated.

For the first quarter to May 31 1983 the company increased its turnover by £4.39m to £33.47m and its profit before tax by £547,000, or 70 per cent, to 1.42m.

The building supplies division was helped by the high volume of spending by local authorities in March and recorded trading profits up 86 per cent to £441,000; while in print and packaging there was a rise of 73 per cent to £1.04m.

Ferranti rises

An increase of £7.7m in pre-tax profits has been shown from £23.8m to £31.5m by Ferranti for the year to the end of March 1983. Turnover of this electrical and electronic engineer moved ahead from £306.9m to £372.2m.

The final net dividend has been effectively lifted from 2.75p to 3.7p, which raises the total irom an adjusted 4.25p to 5.5p. Earnings per 50p share are shown as rising from 25.2p to 34.79p before extraordinary items.

A breakdown of operating profits of £32.3m against £24.2m shows: computer systems £10.1m (£8.3m); Scottish group £15.5m (£13.1m); electronics £6.4m (£4.3m); instrumentation £1.4m (£1.2m); engineering loss £1m (£2.9 loss); others loss £0.1m (profit £0.2m).

The engineering division is not yet performing at a satisfactory level say the directors, but considerable improvement has been achieved. The computer-aided subsidiary included in the Scottish Group is taking longer than anticipated to become profitable. In all other major areas there has been significant growth.

James Finlay

Second half pre-tax profits at James Finlay improved from £7.29m to £10.33m and figures for 1982 as a whole rose from £13.17m to £15.06m. Turnover of this international trader and financier increased from £99.16m to £122.93m.

Group pre-tax profits included share of associates profits which were down from £679,000 to £473,000 and interest charges of £4.94m. Tax increased from £4.14m to £5.75. After minorities of £2.2m (£1.21m), available profit came out at £6.96m compared with £6.64m.

The second interim dividend is increased from 2.5p to 2.9p for a total up from 4.5p to 4.9p net. Dividends absorb £2.88m (£2.65m).

Stated earnings per 25p share fell from 13.4p to 12.2p on a net basis, and from 14.1p to 12.8p on a nil basis.

FNFC rises

For the half year ended April 30, 1983 First National Finance Corporation has increased its profit from £4.69m to £5.14m, subject to tax of £65,000 (£23,000 credit). Earnings are shown at 4.1p (3.8p).

The profit comprised £2.68m (£1.79m) from the lending and property division, where profits continue to be of an irregular nature; and £2.47m (£2.89m) from the consumer credit side, after deducting £2.04m (£329,000) net expenditure of First National Securities (Holdings).

G. M. Firth

On more than doubled turnover of £7.05m, compared with £3.47m, steel stockist and merchant and property developer G. M. Firth (Holdings) advanced from taxable profits of £186,000 to £297,000 in the year to March 31 1983.

The final dividend is being raised from 1.5p to 1.8p net per 10p share making a higher total of 3.3p (3p). A one-for-one scrip is also proposed. Earnings per share are given lower at 5.8p (6.4p).

The directors say they anticipate a considerable improvement in taxable profits and a good increase in asset value for the current year.

Tax took £125,000 (£14,000) and there was an extra-ordinary debit of £156,000 (£22,000).

Fitch Lovell

For the 53 weeks to April 30 1983, Fitch Lovell, food manufacturer, returned profits of £14.6m pre-tax, a 66 per cent improvement over the £10.33m reported for the previous 52 weeks.

The directors, who view the future with "considerable optimism," are lifting the dividend by 46 per cent, from 5.461p to 8p net, by an increased final of 5.83p, as forecast.

Sales rose from £739.49m to £804.15m. Pre-tax figures were after interest charges of £3.03m (£3.5m) and took in a £303,000 (£240,000) share of associates profits. They were also struck after charging development and reorganisation expenditure, including financing costs of £1.51m (£2.76m), and crediting property profits of £1.98m (£3.43m).

Tax took £3.8m (£1.69m) and extraordinary debits £878,000 (£613,000), which included costs of rejecting the bid by Linfood and submissions to the Monopolies Commission of £742,000. Attributable profits totalled £9.89m (£7.99m), equal to earnings of 16.01p (13.14p) per share.

FKI Electricals

Higher than forecast profits have been produced by FKI Electricals for the year to the end of March 1983. The pre-tax surplus amounted to £1.5m against a forecast of £1.4m made when the company came to the Unlisted Securities Market last September.

Turnover of this electrical engineer and parking meter firm amounted to £7.05m.

The current financial year has made an encouraging start, says Mr Tony Gartland, chairman. A dividend of 0.2p net is recommended for the year as forecast. After waivers of £35,096 payments will absorb £104,338.

Pre-acquisition profits from the purchase of a subsidiary amounted to £329,677 and there were extraordinary debits of £127,588 leaving attributable profits of £233,220. Earnings per 10p share are given as 0.52p.

Fleming American

For the six months ended June 30 1983 revenue of the Fleming American Investment Trust was well down at £481,000 compared with £844,800, after tax of £511,000, against £461,000.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 2.82p (5.02p) and net asset value is given as 489.6p (291.5p) after deducting prior charges at par.

Gross revenue amounted to £1.15m (£1.48m) and interest charges were £64,000 (£65,000).

Fleming Overseas

Fleming Overseas Investment Trust, formerly United British Securities Trust, reports a fall from £3.07m to £2.85m in net revenue available for distribution for the year to June 30 1983.

Gross income improved from £5.28m to £5.47m, but management expenses rose from £263,104 to £336,029. Interest charges were unchanged at £9,000, but tax rose from £1.94m to £2.28m.

The total dividend is held at 7p net with a same-again second interim of 4p. This absorbs £3.1m (same). Stated earnings per 25p share were down from 6.87p to 6.38p.

Robert Fleming

Group profit at Robert Fleming Holdings, merchant banker, rose from £9.12m to £12.08m in the year to March 31, 1983. This was after tax and transfer to inner reserves.

The increase in profits is marked by an increase of 24 per cent from 25p to 31p in the total dividend, which costs £3.57m (£2.88m). Gross assets improved substantially from £340.56m to £593.01m, and net assets rose from £77.97m to £114.93m.

Mr J. Burnett-Stuart, the chairman, says the group's activities in the UK have seen expansion in all major areas in relation to investment, banking and corporate finance. Particularly notable has been the successful development of broking and market-making in Far Eastern securities and in Eurobonds.

Flexello Castors

After £137,677 exceptional reorganisation and employment termination costs, Flexello Castors and Wheels has run into a loss of £234,227 for the six months ended March 31, 1983, against a profit of £160,355. A tax credit of £147,455 (charge £33,407) reduces the net loss to £86,772 (profit £126,948), equal to 2.62p (3.84p) per share.

The interim dividend is omitted but the year's results should enable a distribution to be made—last year there was an interim of 0.7p but no final.

Since the end of April there has been a more marked improvement in orders from home and overseas. The group expects to operate profitably for the second half and to achieve a trading profit over the year as a whole.

Fobel over £3m

With earnings per share rising from 3.31p to 8.32p, Fobel International is lifting its dividend from 1.4p to 2.4p net for the year 1982. Turnover of this D-I-Y, electrical and electronic group amounted to £28.95m, compared with £30.61m previously.

Including associates losses £94,720 (profit £333,318), the profit before tax showed growth of more than £1m to £3.12m (£2.11m). After tax £299,000 (£376,000) and minorities £1.47m (£1.18m), there is a balance of £1.36m (£555,000) to which is added an extraordinary credit of £52,262 (£34,448).

Martin Ford

First half pre-tax profits at Martin Ford, retailer of ladies' wear, showed a modest increase from £91,000 to £115,000, and the interim dividend is raised from 0.25p to 0.35p net—last year's total was 0.75p from pre-tax profits of £187,337.

Turnover for the 26 weeks to May 28 1983 was up from £3.51m to £3.52m, including VAT. Tax for the half was down from £47,000 to £35,000, and there was an extraordinary credit of £13,000 (£95,000), being profits on a property disposal. Stated earnings per 10p share were 0.51p (0.28p).

The directors say the programme for branch capital expenditure is beginning to produce the anticipated benefits as shown in the increase in trading profits for the period. This programme is being continued, and they are looking forward to a further improvement in results for the second half.

Forshaws Brewery

A slight reduction in pre-tax profits from £2.88m to £2.79m is reported by Forshaws Burtonwood Brewery for the year to March 31, 1983. First-half profits were up from £1.26m to £1.33m, but the directors warned that it was not possible to be optimistic about prospects in the near future.

Despite the profits slip, the dividend total is being lifted from 5.75p to 8.625p net, with a final of 6.585p (3.797p). Earnings per 25p share dropped from 39.8p to 34p.

Turnover improved from £18.3m to £20.05m, but attributable profits fell from £1.72m to £1.47m after tax of £1.32m (£1.16m).

Forward Technology

For the six months ended June 30 1983 Forward Technology Industries has earned a profit of £111,000, against a loss of £183,000. After tax and minorities there is a net loss of £49,000 (£520,000) equal to 0.3p (3.1p) per share. There are extraordinary charges of £127,000 (£579,000).

Current trading is "well above" the depressed levels of 1982 and profitable trading is anticipated in the second half.

Mr Henry Prevezer, who joined the board in April, is to become chairman in place of Mr G. S. Allen, who will remain a director and become president. He founded the company and is still its major shareholder.

Thomas French

With first half profits more than doubling, from £474,383 to £1.07m, Thomas French & Sons is lifting the interim dividend from 2.25p to 3p net. Earnings were 16.6p (5.9p).

Turnover for the six months to April 2 1983 moved ahead from £9.48m to £10.99m. Important contributions to the result were better home demand for Rufflette curtain styling products, benefits from rationalisation, and a "very strong" performance by the electronics components side.

Fuller Smith

For the year ended April 1 1983 pre-tax profits of Fuller Smith and Turner, brewer, advanced from £2m to £2.6m and the dividend is stepped up 2p to 10p net per £1 share with a final payment of 6p.

Directors say they propose to capitalise reserves of £5.2m by way of an issue of 4m new "A" ordinary and 1.2m 8 per cent second cum preference, on the basis of 10 "A" or "B" ordinary and three 8 per cent second cum preference, for every £8 nominal or "A" or "B" ordinary.

Turnover rose from £25.32m to £28.24m and after tax of £1.07m (£575,000) earnings per share are shown as 47.11p (44.19p).

G

Gallaher

For the first six months of 1983 pre-tax profits of Gallaher advanced to £55.9m, an improvement of 66 per cent over the £33.6m returned for the same period last year, with the second quarter contribution up from last time's £23.6m to £30m.

Turnover for the half year totalled £1.25bn (£1.05bn) excluding VAT and at the trading level profits emerged at £61m (£42.5m), with 30 per cent coming from the group's tobacco interests and 66 per cent from its other activities.

A divisional breakdown of trading profits shows: tobacco £40.9m (£31.5m), optical £12.5m (£5.9m), pumps and valves £3m (£2.3m), distribution £3.6m (£2m) and office products £0.7m (£1.7m). Adjustments accounted for £0.3m (£0.9m).

Group pre-tax profits for the 1982 year amounted to £75.1m.

Garford-Lilley

Following the £16,000 rise to £297,000 at halfway, taxable profits of Garford-Lilley Industries increased to £701,000 for the year to March 31 1983 against £573,000 previously. Turnover of this engineering, plastics and woodworking group edged ahead from £5.93m to £6.25m.

After tax of £347,000 (£249,000) earnings per 5p share improved from 4.91p to 5.38p. The final dividend is higher at 1.4375p net for a total of 1.6875p (1.5p).

GB Papers

A swing round from a loss of £139,000 to a pre-tax profit of £544,000 is reported by GB Papers, the paper making and conversion group, for the 12 months to March 31 1983. At halfway, the company—formerly Culter Guard Bridge Holdings—recorded a £14,000 profit (£5,000 loss).

After a two year absence, the company is returning to the dividend list with a payment of 1.5p net. Earnings per 25p share climbed from 0.76p to 6.47p, after a tax charge of £61,000 (£190,000 credit). There was also an extraordinary credit of £50,000 (£210,000 debit).

General Cons.

Net earnings of the General Consolidated Investment Trust rose from £587,812 to £627,581 for the six months to June 30, 1983, equal to earnings of 3.36p (3.15p) per 25p share. The net interim dividend is held at 2.4p.

Net asset value per share amounted to 232.4p (154.6p) at end-June. Gross assets at valuation, after providing for the ordinary dividend, totalled £44.24m (£30.02m).

GEC advances

Turnover of the General Electric Company rose from £4.95bn to £5.6bn for the year to March 31, 1983, while pre-tax profits advanced to £670m, compared with £584m. At halfway, taxable figures were up £43.2m to £291m.

The dividend for the year is effectively raised to 3p (2.55p adjusted for the sub-division of shares) with a net final of 2p. Stated earnings per 5p share improved from an adjusted 13p to 14.2p excluding extraordinary items.

GEI Intl.

Excluding figures for Cox Denholm, which directors say do not "reflect normal trading," GEI International, engineering concern, turned in lower pre-tax profits of £2.77m for the year ended March 31, 1983, compared with £3.14m previously. Turnover was little changed at £55.08m against £54.7m.

The dividend is maintained, however, at 5.315p net per 20p share with a same-again final of 3.555p. "We are helped in that decision by our adequate cash resources," says Mr Thomas Kenny, chairman.

Cox Denholm suffered losses of £706,000, from turnover of £1.3m, and while the auditors of the company express an unqualified audit opinion regarding the state of affairs as at March 31 last, they do not express an opinion od the results.

After tax of £796,000 (£988,000) and dividends £1.89m (same), the amount retained was £88,000 (£51,000). Earnings per share are shown as 5.6p (6.1p) and net tangible assets 95.3p (95.6p).

Gestetner

On higher turnover of £178.37m, compared with £169.31m, reprographic equipment maker Gestetner Holdings fell from pre-tax profits of £4.65m to £3.28m in the first half to May 7, 1983.

With earnings per 25p share given as plunging from 4.86p to 1.68p—and from 3.89p to 1.6p fully diluted—the interim dividend is being cut from 1.25p to 0.5p net. Last year a total of 1.32p was paid when the company made taxable losses of £2.99m (profits £6.2m).

The directors say the poor results of the second half of 1982 continued into the first quarter. However, the results for the second quarter were much improved and the copier photoconductor manufacturing operation and the paper mill traded very profitably.

Taxable profits were struck after net interest payable of £3.53m (£3.09m) and exceptional costs of £2.69m (£2.74m). Tax took £2.47m (£2.3m) and after the extraordinary items attributable losses came to £4.44m (profits £2.35m).

Continued on next page

Jason Crisp reports on STC's 61% jump in interim profits

Growth by performance and acquisition

THE NEWLY independent Standard Telephones and Cables (STC) pleased the City last week with one of the best sets of figures to come from a major UK lecetronics company this year.

STC, the telecommunications and electronics group which was a subsidiary of the U.S. conglomerate ITT until late last year, reported a 61 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits to £42.4m compared with £26.4m in the same period the previous year.

Turnover was 50 per cent higher at £406.2m in the 25 weeks to June 26, compared with £270m the previous year. The growth came from both acquisitions and a strong performance in its existing businesses, particularly telecommunications.

The most important acquisition during the year was International Aeradio (IAL) which it bought for £60m in March from British Airways. Three months' sales from IAL accounted for most of the £42.5m increase in STC's turnover from assets which were acquired during the year. STC also bought several small subsidiary companies from ITT.

IAL also was a major factor in STC's 90 per cent jump in exports to £111m. The other major reason was a sharp increase in billings for the major undersea telecommunications cable between Australia and New Zealand and Canada (ANZCAN).

Sales in STC's telecommunications and electronics division rose from £177.8m last year to £256.2m in the first half of the current year. Margins were strong both domestically and overseas.

STC's major telecommunications product in the UK is the TXE4A main telephone exchanges. Last year STC was dropped from the development programme of System X the new generation of digital public telephone exchanges. In compensation it was awarded a major and highly profitable contract to supply British Telecom with the current generation of large public exchanges TXE4A, lasting about five years.

The liberalisation of the UK telecommunications industry will mean STC will face tougher competition in this growing market. British Telecome has already become much tougher on its suppliers which will mean reduced margins for its traditional suppliers. STC is also competing to sell telecommunications equipment directly to businesses and has had some early success with teleprinters.

STC is also likely to get a share of the next trans-Atlantic telecommunications cable TAT-8, the first major undersea cable to use optical fibres. Tenders for this giant contract are currently being evaluated and decision is likely next month.

It is likely that the contract will be divided between the competing groups, broadly in line with the proportion their own countries are paying towards the cable. American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) is paying for 50 per cent of TAT-8 and its subsidiary Western Electric is one of the competing companies.

STC's components and distribution divisions turnover for the period rose to £256.2m from £177.8m in the same period the previous year. Margins were sharply better compared with the depressed levels of the previous year.

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

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Continued

Glasgow Stockholders

Gross revenue of Glasgow Stockholders Trust increased by 16 per cent from £725,587 to £843,299 for the first half of 1983 and ordinary earnings were up 19 per cent to £366,289, against £307,224.

Tax charge was £210,407 (£156,560) and earnings per 25p share came out ahead from 1.39p to 1.55p. The interim dividend is 1.05p (1p) net and a final not less than last year's 1.5p is predicted.

At the end of June, net asset value per share had risen to 163p (123p at December 31 1982).

Glass Glover

Pre-tax profits of food distributor and fruit and vegetable importer Glass Glover Group were little changed at £495,000 in the six months to March 31 1983, against £492,000 before. Current trading is satisfactory and the directors anticipate that the full-year figure will be not less than the previous year's £1.28m.

Earnings per 5p share were down slightly at 3.3683p (adjusted 3.5427p), but the interim dividend is stepped up from 1.125p to 1.25p net—last year's final was 1.875p.

First-half turnover edged ahead from £24.83m to £25.57m.

Globe Inv.

Despite a £1.59m profits downturn by its subsidiaries to £622,000 and a £656,000 rise in tax to £7.5m net revenue of the Globe Investment Trust edged ahead from £13.16m to £13.24m for the year to March 31 1983.

The dividend total is being lifted by 0.4p to 8.3p net per 25p share by an increased final of 4.75p (4.35p).

Gross revenue for the period improved from £24.94m to £25.78m. Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders emerged at £13.48m, compared with with £13.16m, after taking in minority credits of £234,000 this time.

However, taking account of dividend payments, £13.59m, against £12.92m, there was a retained deficit of £110,000 (£241,000 surplus).

Earnings per share basic totalled 8.23p (8.05p) and fully diluted 8.1p (7.93p).

On the same basis net assets value per share at end-March was 269.37p (192.25p) and 257.04p (186.34p).

Glossop

Despite a rise in turnover from £15.2m to £24.72m, taxable profits of public works contractor Glossop fell by £175,000 to £354,000 in the year to January 31 1983. This was after more than trebled interest charges of £298,000, compared with £91,000.

Earnings per 25p share are given well down at 2p (8.3p), but the year's dividend is being maintained at 5.084p net, with a same again final of 3.508p.

Tax took £226,000 (£143,000) and after minorities of £8,000 (nil) and extraordinary debits of £127,000 (credits £47,000)—for rationalisation costs incurred in the assimilation of AAA and CEA Combustion—the attributable figure emerged as a loss of £7,000 (profit £433,000).

Glynwed Intnl.

Glynwed International's pre-tax profits rose from £6.46m to £8.08m in the 26 weeks to June 25 1983, and the directors say the whole of the improvement in profitability came from UK operations in and part reflected the results of the ductile companies acquired in the second half of 1982. These are now fully integrated into the divisional structure.

Turnover of this engineer, steel stockholders and distributor increased from £202.43m to £232.04m, and trading profits were up from £11.27m to £12.39m. Interest charges were £4.32m against £4.86m. Tax was little changed at £2.07m (£2.05m). Stated earnings per 25p share were 7.12p on a net basis compared with 6.45p.

The interim dividend is held at 2.45p—last year's total was 7.35p from pre-tax profits of £18.73m (£19.23m).

The directors say profits for the second half are expected to comfortably exceed those of the first six months.

Gnome Photographic

Attributable profits at Gnome Photographic were £7,000 higher at £184,000 in the year to May 31 1983. Turnover was slightly lower at £1.48m compared with £1.53m. The attributable figure was after all charges, including tax down from £120,000 to £74,000. Figures include interest and dividends received totalling £96,385 against £111,934.

The dividend is unchanged at 4.5p net, and stated earnings per 10p share improved from 5.345p to 5.721p.

Goal Petroleum

Goal Petroleum, the oil and gas exploration and production company, reports pre-tax profits up from £877,000 to £1.6m for the six months to June 30 1983. Turnover improved from £2.6m to £3.26m.

The pre-tax figure was after cost of sales up from £989,000 to £1.08m, abortive exploration written off £205,000 against £127,000, administrative costs of £363,000 compared with £302,000, interest payable down from £332,000 to £67,000 and interest receivable up from £27,000 to £61,000.

Mr C. A. E. O'Brien, the chairman, says it is the board's intention to pay a maiden dividend for 1983.

Goode Durrant

Despite a lower turnover of £28.95m, against £30.94m, pre-tax profits of Goode Durrant & Murray Group increased from £991,000 to £1.02m in the six months to April 30, 1983.

After tax of £440,000 (£373,000) and minorities of £12,000 (£11,000) earnings per 5p share came out at 2.3p, against 2.5p.

The company, whose interests include banking services, financing and property developing, does not pay interim dividends. Last year's single payment was 1p net on taxable profits of £2.77m.

Gordon & Gotch

Static pre-tax profits of £1.13m, against £1.14m, were returned by Gordon & Gotch Holdings, including associates share for the year to end-March 1983. Turnover totalled £35.46m, compared with £35.14m, excluding associates.

The dividend is held at 7.5p net per 25p share—earnings amounted to 11.19p (11.73p) per share.

Tax accounted for £615,000 (£604,000), minorities £1,000 (£2,000) and extraordinary debit £241,000 (nil). The group exports publications and has interests in computer services.

GRA Group

An improvement in pre-tax results from a loss of £116,000 to a profit of £1,000 has been produced by the GRA Group for the six months to April 30 1983. Turnover of this organiser of greyhound racing and other leisure interests amounted to £5.19m against £5.42m.

The first half year's results do not justify the payment of a dividend, but the directors say that if the recent steady improvement continues then the possibility of payment will be considered in the autumn.

For the period under review operating profit rose from £124,000 to £171,000 and was subject to interest payments down from £240,000 to £170,000.

Graig Shipping

A fall from £2.74m to £806,508 in pre-tax profits is reported by Graig Shipping for the year to March 31, 1983. A three-for-one scrip issue is proposed on the ordinary and "A" non-voting ordinary shares. The final dividend is unchanged at 20p for a same-again total of 30p.

Profit after loan interest and depreciation was considerably lower at £228,017 compared with £1.41m, and there were exceptional credits of £578,491 (£1.33m). The exceptional items were profit on exchange £96,451 (£1.44m) and profit on the sale of investments £482,040 (nil).

Stated earnings per £1 share were down from 376.58p to 352.51p.

Grainger Trust

An increase in pre-tax profits from £172,000 to £458,000 has been shown by Grainger Trust for the six months to March 3, 1983. The net interim dividend of this property company has been effectively lifted from 0.64p to 1p.

The directors would expect, as mentioned last February when the company came to the Unlisted Securities Market, to be able to recommend net dividends for the year of not less than 3.8p (3.26p adjusted).

Turnover rose from £1.04m to £1.48m.

Pre-tax profits were struck after property expenses of £468,000 (£293,000), management expenses of £115,000 (£108,000) and interest payable of £442,000 (£467,000). Tax amounted to £191,000 (£85,000) and after minorities, the attributable balance increased from £84,000 to £261,000. Earnings per share were shown as moving ahead from 2.3p to 6p.

Granada Group

A 31 per cent rise in depreciation charges—from £23.03m to £30.91m—and a doubling in interest payable—from £3.42m to £6.85m—caused a 12 per cent fall in first half pre-tax profits (to April 4, 1983) at Granada Group, from £23.88m to £21.01m.

The increased costs were due to this television and video equipment rental and IBA television contracting group's development programme and expenditure on rental assets. The directors say the outcome for the year as a whole is likely to show a similar decline in profits.

Stated earnings per 25p share slipped from 6.1p to 5.1p but the interim dividend is being raised from 1.92p to 2.1p net. Last year a total of 5.28p was paid.

Turnover and trading profits advanced from £229.94m to £261.78m and from £55.86m to £65.37m respectively. Tax took £12.58m (£13.69m) leaving attributable profits of £8.44m (£10.11m after minorities of £83,000).

James Grant (East)

Improved pre-tax profits, up from £206,000 to £636,000, are reported by James Grant (East), retailer, property and commodity trader, for the year to January 31 1983. Turnover fell from £9.08m to £5.78m. Tax was higher at £311,000 compared with £104,000 and there were extraordinary credits of £268,000 against £381,000.

Stated earnings per 25p share were 10.9p against losses of 0.2p.

Great Portland

For the year ended March 31 1983 Great Portland Estates has increased its pre-tax revenue by £2.45m to £15.77m, and is effectively raising the dividend from 4.29p to 5p net, with a final of 4p.

The revenue was struck after charging exceptional repairs on refurbishment of buildings £567,000 (£180,000). Gross rental income was £16.15m (£14.99m). Earnings are shown at 5.7p (5.3p) per share.

The group's portfolio was valued professionally at March 31 1983 at £268.41m on an "open market value" basis. This gave rise to a deficit of £14.59m which has been debited to capital reserve. Net asset value per share came to £1.84 (£1.94). Annual meeting, August 31.

GUS ahead

Mail order and retailing group Great Universal Stores moved ahead from taxable profits of £189.16m to £201.38m in the year to March 31, 1983 on higher turnover of £2.04bn compared with £1.84bn—including VAT of £195.52m against £182.93m.

The year's dividend is being raised from 13p to 14p net per 25p share with a final of 9p (8.25p). Earnings per share are given as 45.89p (42.63p).

In the year under review catalogue mail order in the UK maintained its overall profit in the face of difficult trading conditions, while in Europe, particularly Holland and Austria, it achieved a satisfactory increase.

Provisions for deferred profit service charges and collection costs were £168.03m (£147.16m). Current tax took £49.57m (£70.97m) and there was a deferred charge of £36.51m (£12.12m) leaving net profits of £115.01m (£106.08m). Additionally there were property sale profits of £2.74m (£427,000) and a debit of £3.91m (nil) for the group's investment in Empire Stores taken to extraordinary items.

Greene King at £8m

Greene, King & Sons, the Bury St. Edmunds' brewer, improved its pre-tax profits from £7.2m to £8.01m in the 52 weeks to May 1 1983. The total dividend is 3.95p with a 2.65p final—the previous year's total payout was 7.1p on the old capital.

Turnover improved from a restated £62.77m to £68.2m. Tax took £2.78m compared with £2.2m, and there were extraordinary credits of £330,000 (£421,000). Adjusted earnings per 25p share are shown as 12.6p (12.1p).

Greenfields Leisure

A modest increase of £4,000 to £54,000 in pre-tax profits is reported by Greenfields Leisure for the six months to April 30, 1983 and Mr D. S. Greenfield, the new chairman, says the underlying trend towards recovery has been sustained, although an abnormally mild winter caused a temporary slowdown in retail turnover.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 0.25p — last year's total was 1.25p from pre-tax profits of £336,000.

First half turnover of this retailer and wholesaler of leisurewear and camping equipment, fell from £10.32m to £8.53m.

Tax charge is £28,000 (£8,000). After dividends £27,000 (same), there was a retained loss of £46,000 (£30,000). Loss per 10p share is given as 0.18p (0.05p).

The directors anticipate a satisfactory result for the full year.

Greenfriar Inv.

Gross income of the Greenfriar Investment Company rose from £92,388 to £243,296 for the six months ended June 30 1983. The figures were subject to interest charges of £87,482 (£66,605), management expenses of £35,650 (£22,143) and tax of £40,084 (£21,563)—last time warrants issue expense also accounted for £22,242.

Half-year earnings amounted to 2p (1.01p excluding warrants expense) per 25p share and net assets totalled 476.5p (221.7p).

Gresham House

Excluding an exceptional debit this time of £300,000 pre-tax profits of Gresham House, investment trust, fell from £700,000 to £542,000 for 1982.

A second interim dividend of 2.6p holds the net total of 4p per 25p share.

After tax of £5,000 (£190,000) and minorities of £158,000 (£238,000) attributable profits emerged at £379,000 (£272,000), equal to earnings of 9.2p (6.6p) per share.

Greycoat City Offices

Pre-tax profits at Greycoat City Offices soared from £810,000 to £1.83m in the year to March 31, 1983. The final dividend is 0.65p for a total of 1.15p—last year's total was 1p from a single payment.

Turnover of this property investment and development company climbed from £934,000 to £2.46m. No tax was payable against £291,000 in the previous year. After an extraordinary debit of £1.49m this time, attributable profits were lower at £334,000 compared with £519,000. Stated earnings per 10p share were up from 3.4p to 5.7p.

Litigation costs concerning a major development in South-east London has resulted in a provision of £1.5m as an extraordinary item.

Grindlays lower

Pre-tax profits of Grindlays Bank came out at £16.7m for the half year to June 30, 1983. This compares with £79.12m last time, which included however £59.44m profit on realisations.

After tax of £11.39m (£38.78m) and minorities, attributable profits were down from £40.25m to £5.14m. The tax rate continues high because of continuing better earnings overseas in some highly-taxed areas and because tax relief is not available at present for some debt provisions.

The reduced profits were partly due to lower interest rates during the period and to the effect of exchange rates. Debt provisions were still high, but there was a marked improvement on the experience of the second half of 1982.

The result of the parent group, Grindlays Holdings show pre-tax profits of £16.8m, against £79.09m including £59.4m profit on realisations. The attributable balance was £2.64m (£20.5m) and earnings per 25p share — based on trading results—were 7.8p (11p).

The net interim dividend is maintained at 1.25p—last year's final was 3.125p.

GT Global Inv.

Net profits of GT Global Investment Trust declined from £391,245 to £344,675 for the 12 months ended March 31 1983 after a lower tax charge of £232,161, compared with £366,671.

Earnings per £1 share emerged at 3.45p (3.91p) but the dividend total is held at 3.5p net by a final of 2.75p.

Total income advanced to £1.03m (£979,435) but interest charges rose to £247,382 (£143,622).

Net asset value per share improved from 79.7p to 115.7p.

Guernsey Atlantic

At June 30 1983 net asset value of the Guernsey Atlantic Securities Trust had reached 163p per share, compared with 95p a year earlier, but "it would be rash" to expect any further capital appreciation in 1983 to be on the same scale, the directors warn.

For the six months ended June 30 1983 the company, which is dealt on the USM, made a profit of £8,328 (£7,423) subject to tax £2,786 (£2,280). The directors are confident on the outlook for the second half.

Arthur Guinness

Despite a fall in turnover from a restated £466.7m to £428.8m, Arthur Guinness and Sons raised pre-tax profits by £3.2m to £23.4m for the half year to March 31 1983. A reduction in UK profits was offset by higher contributions from the Republic of Ireland and overseas.

In the short term, the board does not expect any significant improvement in trading conditions and therefore predicts a modest advance in full year profits.

Midway tax charge was £9.5m (£7.7m) and earnings per 25p share rose by 0.9p to 6.2p. The interim dividend is stepped up from 1.575p to 1.655p net—last year's total was 5.225p.

Exchange rates at September 30 1982 have been adopted for all interim figures and the effect of this has been to reduce 1982-83 pre-tax profits by £2.5m, compared with using March 31 1983 rates.

Guinness Peat Group

As expected, Guinness Peat Group has swung back with trading profits of £5.05m in the year to April 30 1983 from losses of £23.26m. Trading losses at the halfway stage were down from £7.39m to £3.33m. At the pre-tax level, losses were greatly reduced at £2.13m compared with £31.09m. Tax was lower at £1.09m against £2.86m. No dividend is again payable.

Banking profits totalled £1.45m compared with £2.5m. After minorities of £174,000 (£570,000) and extraordinary debits of £874,000 (credits £5.46m), the loss for the period was £2.82m (£26.86m). The loss per share was 2.12p (37.48p).

H

Habit Precision

Very poor trading conditions from October to December for precision cutting tools maker Habit Precision Engineering and a further programme of redundancy completed in January caused the group to plunge from taxable profits of £8,500 to losses of £32,300 in the first half to March 31, 1983. Exceptional debits for the period amounted to £35,000, against credits of £8,700.

With losses per 5p share given as 0.97p (earnings 0.26p) the interim dividend is again being missed. Last year a final of 0.25p net was paid from pre-tax profits of £19,039.

Turnover advanced from £839,000 to £1.02m and there was again no tax charge.

Habitat Mothercare

For the nine months ended March 27, 1983 Habitat Mothercare made pre-tax profits of £19.33m, on sales of £243.97m. In the previous year—comprising 12 months of Habitat and five months of Mothercare—profits were £10.01m and sales totalled £157.15m.

After-tax profits came out at £12.01m for the period (£6.82m for year) and basic earnings per 10p share increased to 11.3p (9.9p) or to 10.1p (9.3p) fully diluted. The dividend for the nine months is 4p net—on an annualised basis this is equivalent to 5.3p, up 33 per cent on the previous year's total of 4p.

For better interpretation of results, the group has produced an unaudited pro-forma statement of annual profits. These show figures for both Habitat and Mothercare covering the full 12 months to the end of March 1983, compared with those for the previous full year.

Sir Terence Conran, the chairman of Habitat Mothercare—sales in the first two months of the current year were up 23 per cent

On this basis, profits before tax increased by 24 per cent from £18.47m to £22.95m, while turnover rose by 21 per cent to £309.7m (£255.36m). Basic earnings per share improved from 11.3p to 13.5p.

Turnover and trading profits—£27.46m (£20.63m)—were split respectively between Habitat £103.63m (£76.85m) and £7.84m (£6.16m); Mothercare £204.21m (£177.25m) and £19.08m (£13.96m); design consultancy £1.85m (£1.26m) and £546,000 (£490,000).

Hadland Holdings

In the first half to April 30 1983 Unlisted Securities Market quoted photographic instrumentation manufacturer Hadland Holdings made taxable profits of £21,000, compared with losses of £62,000. In the previous year the company returned to profits of £518 at the 12-month stage.

Despite stated earnings per 25p share of 0.31p (losses 1p) the interim dividend is being maintained at 0.84p. The directors say this takes into account the fact that outstanding orders reveal a continuing recovery in most areas of the company's business.

Turnover moved ahead from £2.1m to £2.5m. Tax took £11,000 (credit £32,000) leaving attributable profits of £10,000 (losses £32,000 after transfer to debenture redemption reserve of £2,000).

Hales Properties

Hales Properties Group improved its pre-tax profits from £490,967 to £513,546 in the year to March 31, 1983. The final dividend is cut from an adjusted 2.33p to 2.08334p for a total effectively raised from 3.33334p to 3.41667p.

Group turnover rose from £1.26m to £1.35m. Tax took £242,322 against £196,461, and there were extraordinary credits of £31,249 (£25,726), being the surplus on sales of freehold investment properties.

Stated earnings per 25p share were down from 10.43p to 9.61p before extraordinary items.

Hallite

Despite a rise in interest charges from £97,000 to £171,000 profits of Hallite, manufacturer of synthetic rubber and plastic precision seals, rose from £955,000 to £1.02m pre-tax for the 52 weeks ended April 30, 1983.

The dividend is being increased by 0.5p to 11.5p net by an enlarged final of 7.5p—earnings amounted to 29.2p (32.5p) per 50p share on a net basis and at 33.2p (32.5p) on a nil basis.

Turnover for the past year totalled £11.17m (£9.28m) and capital investment in plant, equipment and tooling amounted to £1.2m.

Halma rises

Higher profits and dividend, and a one-for-three scrip issue are announced by Halma, which makes safety systems and environmental control equipment.

For the year ended April 2 1983 profit was up from £1.71m to £1.98m before tax of £776,000 (£707,000). The final dividend is 1.08p for a net total of 1.753p (1.461p).

After minorities £4,000 (£5,000) and extraordinary credits £56,000 (£293,000 debits), the net balance was £1.26m (£707,000). Earnings were 6.2p (5.19p), or 4.84p (4.2p) using a 52 per cent tax rate.

Hambro Trust

After-tax profits of the Hambro Trust slipped from £889,000 to £876,000 in the year to June 30 1983.

Tax took £370,000 (£390,000) and earnings per 25p share—profits on ordinary activities—were 9.26p (11.72p), or 15.97p (16.19p) after investment gains and extraordinary items. The final dividend is cut to 4.03p for a lower total payment of 5.62p (5.71p) net.

Hambros down

After tax, profits of Hambros, banking concern, dipped from £11.7m to £9.9m, for the year ended March 31 1983. The figure was also after associate companies exceptional provision on shipping debts, transferred from inner reserve, of £10.5m against £15.9m.

The dividend is maintained at 52.75p net per £2 share (50p paid) with a same-again final of 37.5p. Earnings per share are shown as 14.6p (14.4p).

After minorities, £0.5m (£0.1m credit), gains on portfolio investments £1.2m (£1.8m), provisions re Hambros Gas & Oil Inc £18.9m (nil) and extraordinary credits £23.9m (£1.8m), profits came out at £15.6m (£15.4m).

Hambros Inv. Trust

Gross revenue of Hambros Investment Trust was virtually unchanged at £4.06m against £4.04m for the year to March 31, 1983 but, with interest and management expenses increasing from £855,000 to £968,000, pre-tax revenue declined marginally from £3.19m to £3.09m.

Earnings per 25p share were 3.41p (3.5p), after tax of £1.23m (£1.27m), and the net final dividend is 2.4p for a 3.4p (3.3p) total. At the year end the net asset value per share was 148.3p (117p) deducting prior charges at a nominal value and 152.2p (121.6p) deducting such charges at market value.

Hampson Industries

Engineer and industrial cleaner Hampson Industries advanced from taxable profits of £508,781 to £531,680 in the year to March 31, 1983 on turnover down at £13.56m compared with £14.85m.

With earnings per 5p share given as 1.55p (1.49p) the final dividend is being maintained at 0.5p net making a same again total of 0.75p.

After tax of £199,132 (£189,080) and extraordinary credits of £40,802 (debits £77,754) the attributable profits emerged at £373,330 (£241,947).

Hanover Inv.

In line with forecast, profit for the year ended February 28 1983 of Hanover Investment (Holdings) amounted to £173,000, compared with £30,000. Earnings are shown at 4.1p (2.1p) before extraordinary debits (credit) and at 3.6p (same) after such items. No figures from Druce and Co., acquired in February, are included.

Hanson Trust

A 53 per cent advance in pre-tax profits from £22.1m to £33.9m is reported by Hanson Trust, industrial management group, for the six months to March 31 1983, Turnover rose from £510.4m to £641.1m. Sir James Hanson, the chairman, says the board continues to look to the future with great confidence.

Earnings per 25p share jumped from an adjusted 4.3p to 6.9p undiluted, or from 4p to 6.1p diluted. The interim dividend is effectively raised by 20 per cent from 1.667p to 2p net—last year's total was an equivalent 4p.

Commenting on the profit forecast made during the UDS bid of not less than £75m (£60.4m) for the year to the end of September, Sir James describes it as a most encouraging outlook for the future.

The second half will include a contribution from UDS — integrated into Hanson on April 22. An in-depth review of all UDS activities is under way to strengthen its competitive position.

Net assets per 25p share were up to 70p at the end of March (57p at September 30 1982).

Hardys & Hansons

For the half year ended April 1, 1983 Hardys and Hansons, Nottingham-based brewer, has made a profit of £1.17m, compared with £1.2m, from turnover of £7.9m (£7.46m). With the recent better weather, trading has improved, the directors report. Interim dividend is being raised to 4.2p (4p).

After tax £609,000 (£625,000) and preference dividend £8,000 (£8,000), there is £554,000 (£569,000) available for the ordinary, to which is added this year an exceptional credit of £113,000. Earnings of this "close" company came out at 11.255p (11.555p).

Hargreaves Group

Following an advance from £2m to £2.4m at mid-term, pre-tax profits of Hargreaves Group finished the year to March 31 1983 ahead from £4.27m to £4.84m.

Earnings per share for the 12 months under review expanded from 8.8p to 9.7p and the net dividend total is stepped up from 3.6p to 4p with a final payment of 2.25p.

Turnover amounted to £288.52m (£245.9m) and the trading surplus improved to £9.06m (£7.88m). The pre-tax result included a £867,000 (£679,000) share of associates but was after depreciation of £4.51m (£3.93m) and interest of £571,000 (£354,000).

Tax absorbed £1.44m (£1.21m) and there were extraordinary debits this time of £49,000 (£526,000).

Philip Harris

Taxable profits of Philip Harris (Holdings), scientific apparatus manufacturer, fell from £679,000 to £487,000 in the year to March 31, 1983 and earnings per 20p share are shown lower at 11.03p against 19.35p. The dividend total, however, is being lifted from 6.5p to 6.75p net with a final payment of 4.75p.

Turnover for the period was ahead from £18.83m to £21.26m, and on a CCA basis profits were given at £251,000 (£459,000).

Harrisons & Crosfield

Pre-tax profits of Harrisons & Crosfield, whose interests include plantations, chemicals and timber, fell by £2.77m to £44.47m for the year 1982 with the second six months producing £28.18m, compared with £27.22m previously.

However, earnings per share emerged well ahead at 44.3p (37.1p) after a much lower tax charge and a final dividend of 23.5p (20.5p) raises the net total by 3p to 31p per £1 share.

The directors say trading profits for the opening months of the current year show strong growth, particularly in the UK, over the depressed corresponding period of 1982.

Pre-tax results included associates at £4.63m (£4.44m) and were struck after taking account of higher interest charges of £14.63m, against £10.06m.

Tax fell by £6.39m to £14.52m, minorities accounted for £2.25m (£3.41m) and preference dividends took the same at £120,000. This left earnings for ordinary shareholders of £27.57m (£22.8m).

Exchange differences added £6.37m (£7.35m) and extraordinary items £73.9m, being a surplus on part realisation of an investment in Harrisons Malaysian Estates and associated transactions less tax, including £20.54m deferred tax.

Haslemere Estates

Pre-tax profits of Haslemere Estates advanced by £1m to £7.09m for the year to March 31, 1983, and the dividend is being stepped up by 1p to 7.5p net by a final of 6p.

Rental income amounted to £16.85m (£16.81m) and trading sales and joint venture income £8.16m (£3.41m). Earnings amounted to 16.75p (18.06p) per 10p share on a net basis and at 16.75p (14.48p) on a nil basis.

Net asset value per share totalled £6.61 (£6.42) basic and £5.78 (£5.63) diluted. At year-end properties in the investment portfolio were valued at £237.74m (£232.02m).

H.A.T. expands

In line with the mid-year prediction profits of the HAT Group for the year to February 28 1983 exceeded those of the previous year. At the pre-tax level they emerged at £8.2m, compared with 1981-82's £6m, and the dividend is being increased from 2.75p to 3p net by a final of 1.5p.

With the results are proposals to raise approximately £14.7m by an underwritten rights issue of 12,670,638 ordinary shares at 120p on a one-for-five basis.

Trading in the current year is considered "satisfactory" and an acceptable result is expected to be achieved.

Turnover for the past year rose from £94.11m to £145.5m—the group supplies specialist services and materials to industry, public and local authorities and the general public.

Earnings per 10p share totalled 8.6p (6.9p).

Hazlewood Foods

A final dividend of 5.5p by Hazlewood Foods lifts the total from 8p to 9.5p net for the year ended March 31, 1983. Group turnover shot up from £18.84m to £30.04m and the profit before tax from £1.42m to £2.02m.

The directors have confidence in the group and are totally committed to growth. In the year capital investment came to £1.9m (excluding acquisitions) which has enabled the company to increase productivity, thereby producing additional surplus capacity to permit further extension of the product range.

Henlys £2.6m loss

Pre-tax losses of motor car dealer Henlys increased from £2.45m to £2.61m for the six months ended April 2 1983 and again the interim dividend is omitted—last year's final was 0.1p.

Turnover rose from £96.2m to £113.7m for the half year and the pre-tax figure was after interest and stock finance charges of £1.16m (£1.69m).

Trading to date in the current six months has not been encouraging, directors say, but the overall result should be considerably better than the £5.9m loss for 1981-82.

There was a tax credit of £233,000 (£483,000 credit) and an extraordinary credit of £3.04m (£982,000) being the surplus on property disposals, less reorganisation costs. chairman.

Highgate Optical

Heavier losses than forecast have been incurred by Highgate Optical for 1982. The directors forecast in March that consolidated loss before tax would not be more than £328,000, but the figures are £335,782 compared with £63,066. No dividend is again being paid. Turnover was down from £2.38m to £2.12m.

Highgate Optical had trading losses up from £63,066 to £69,688, but Bracecard had profits of £28,088. Exceptional bad debts in respect of Bracecard totalled £294,202 this time. There was a tax credit of £104,098, being an over-provision for prior years.

A prior year credit of £14,607 (£33,391) and an extraordinary credit of £19,418 (£183,256 debit) saw the net loss reduced to £197,659 compared with £212,931. The loss per 10p share was higher at 11.35p (3.09p).

The directors say the company traded profitably in June and they expect this will continue.

Hickson Intl.

After charging this time redundancy and closure costs of £0.4m, pre-tax profits of Hickson International, formerly Hickson & Welch (Holdings), advanced from £3.83m to £4.7m for the six months to March 31, 1983. Turnover rose by £3.43m to £50.4m.

Mr M. Hopley, the chairman, says he expects trading in the remainder of the year to be at much the same level as in the first six months.

The company's financial year has been changed to coincide with the calendar year. The current period will cover the 15 months from October, 1982 to December, 1983.

Stated half-year earnings per 50p share improved from 12p to 13p and the net interim dividend is being raised by 0.5p to 3p per share — last year, a total of 7.5p was paid on £7.62m taxable profits.

Pre-tax figures were after interest payable of £357,000 (£415,000) and the redundancy and closure costs.

The tax charge was up from £1.52m to £2.21m and with dividends absorbing £580,000 (£483,000), the retained surplus emerged at £1.91m (£1.82m).

Hillards nears £6m

For the year ended April 30, 1983, Hillards, the West Yorkshire based food supermarket group, has turned in profits, before tax, of £5.81m, compared with £4.78m in the previous year. Including VAT, sales moved up from £183.76m to £204.26m.

Tax takes £1.7m (£1.78m) to leave the net profit at £4.12m (£3m), for earnings of 16.99p (12.34p) per share. The dividend is lifted to 4p (3.25p) with a final of 2.8p.

Hill Samuel

Against a mixed background, Hill Samuel Group increased profits for the year ended March 31, 1983 from £15.99m to £20.11m, after providing for tax and transfer to reserve for contingencies.

Fully diluted earnings per 25p share were 23 per cent higher at 28.67p (23.24p), while the final dividend is up from 5.5p to 6.3p net for a total of 9.1p—a 14 per cent rise over last year's 8p.

Sir Robert Clark, chairman, says he believes that, having regard to conditions in their respective markets, all of the group's divisions performed well.

A divisional breakdown of disclosed profits (with £000's omitted) shows: merchant banking £16,112 (£12,501); life and investment management £3,624 (£2,831); employee benefit services £2,065 (£2,068); insurance broking £820 (£628 loss); shipping services £1,812 (£2,491); underwriting agencies £303 (£369); less central costs including interest £4,630 (£3,641).

Hill Thomson

In the 18 months to January 31, 1983, pre-tax profits at Hill Thomson and Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Glenlivet Distillers, were £1.78m compared with £1.57m for the 12 months to July 31, 1981.

Turnover, including duty improved from £11.14m to £17.54m. There was a tax credit this time of £17,000 against a charge of £125,000. Stated earnings per share climbed from 27.18p to 39.19p.

Hill Woolgar

Taxable profits of Hill Woolgar & Company totalled £248,000 for 1982, compared with £93,000 for the period from March 27, 1981 to end-December 1981. Income from the year amounted to £712,000 (£302,000 for period). Tax took £120,000 (£39,000) for basic earnings per share of 4.48p (2.74p).

The company will apply for USM listing after the appropriate three year trading record has been established. Results for current year are expected to be satisfactory.

Hogg Robinson

Taxable profits of insurance broker Hogg Robinson Group expanded from £8.51m to £10.57m for the 12 months to March 31 1983 after taking account of a same-again provision of £1m against debtors because of the continued uncertainties in worldwide insurance markets.

Earnings per 25p share emerged at 10.94p (10.56p) and the dividend total is the same at 6p net, the final being 3p.

Turnover totalled £64.37m (£53.41m). Pre-tax figures by division were insurance broking £7.2m (£6.11m), Lloyds underwriting agencies £3.22m (£1.68m), non-Lloyds underwriting £383,000 (£145,000 loss), travel and shipping £1.18m (£1.7m) and financial and computer services £319,000 (£480,000). Other net interest less investment income debit amounted to £1.73m (£1.31m).

Hollas Group

On group turnover down from £35.13m to £25.76m, pre-tax profits at the Hollas Group, textiles and fibres, fell slightly from £1.41m to £1.31m in the year to March 31, 1983.

Mr A. R. Lawson, the chairman, says that although the company's prospects are excellent, it is considered prudent to restrict the transfer from reserves this year, and the final dividend is therefore halved to 1p for a total of 2p (3p) net.

Tax for the year is up from £275,000 to £616,000 and there is a provision of £75,000 (£250,000) for ACT. There is also a provision this time of £1.15m for loss arising on subsequent disposal of a subsidiary company, Thrells.

Stated earnings per 5p share were down from 3.4p to 2.4p.

Hoover

During the second quarter of 1983 Hoover produced pre-tax profits of £1.78m, with the taxable result for the six months to the end of June amounting to £1.04m against losses for the comparable period of £4.56m.

The directors say they are encouraged by the second quarter results—the previous second quarter showed losses of £2.64m before tax—but they are fully aware of the need to keep up the momentum to ensure that profits can be restored on a continuing basis.

Australian operations have significantly improved profits.

Group sales for the six months expanded from £89.93m to £97.99m. Interest payable amounted to £1.01m against £2.17m, and there were rationalisation costs of £310,000 (£162,000).

Tax came to £356,000 (£454,000). Earnings per 25p share were given as 3p against previous losses of 25p.

Horne Brothers

Interim results for the 28 weeks to March 19 1983 from men's clothier Horne Brothers shows that the loss has increased from £74,000 to £240,000. But the second half is expected to show better trading, before the exceptional costs of the reorganisation started in 1982. Main benefits of that began to be felt in mid-1983.

The interim loss included an exceptional credit of £74,000 arising on the sale of the Harrogate branch and the West Ham shirt factory.

Frank Horsell

Printing equipment manufacturer, Frank Horsell Group turned in taxable profits of £1.91m for the year ended March 31 1983, compared with £1.48m previously, on turnover up from £11.48m to £14.44m.

After tax of £305,000 (£719,000) earnings per 20p share are well up at 23.9p, against 11.9p, and the dividend is increased to 6.1p (5.5p) with a final of 4.4p.

The company's shares are traded on the market made by Granville & Co.

Howard & Wyndham

Taxable losses of publisher Howard and Wyndham deepened from £156,000 to £312,000 in 1982, on sales drastically cut back from £9.72m to £3.59m. The losses included profits from jeweller Ciro of £201,000, compared with £589,000 following a reduction in the group's stake in the company.

With losses per 20p share given as 6.5p (5p) the dividend is again being missed.

The directors say as a result of the Ciro disposal the group has one operating division, W. H. Allen and Company, which traded profitably in 1982 and the trend is continuing.

In view of negative reserves and sizeable preference dividend arrears which will continue to grow, the directors are studying ways to reconstruct the company's capital and an accompanying rights issue.

Tax took £53,000 (£96,000) and there were extraordinary credits of £185,000 (nil)

Continued

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

H

Continued

Howden Group

Turnover at Howden Group, engineer, air, gas and fluid handling equipment specialist, fell from £142.17m to £135.43m, but the taxable surplus increased to £9.25m, for the year ended April 30, 1983.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 18.2p (17.8p) and the dividend is lifted to 4.84p (4.4p) net with a final distribution of 3.38p.

The group's order book continues at a high level and liquidity will remain sound, directors state. They anticipate a satisfactory performance in the current year.

Tax charge for the year took £3.54m (£3.43m), minorities £260,998 (£32,149) and there were extraordinary credits of £273,112, compared with debits of £472,181.

Hunterprint

On higher sales of £10.32m, compared with £8.79m, commercial colour printer Hunterprint Group pushed its pre-tax profits up from £720,000 to £767,000 for the six months ended April 3 1983 and the directors are confident that 1983 will see the group maintain its upward trend.

An interim dividend of 1.2p is declared from earnings per 25p share of 8.75p (8.67p)—the group's shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The new factory at Corby, Northants, is on schedule and the first three presses will shortly commence production. The major new press at the Peterlee factory commenced production satisfactorily in June.

I

ICC Oil Services

For the year to March 31 1983 ICC Oil Services turned in pre-tax profits of £240,939, compared with £325,507 for the previous 15 months. Turnover amounted to £2.19m, against £2.26m previously.

Although margins continue to be under pressure, the directors say all indications are that the situation is improving both onshore and offshore, which should lead to an improvement in the current year.

Operating profits came out at £361,923 (£423,134). Earnings per 10p share dropped from 1.12p to 0.78p, but the dividend is improved to 0.02p (0.01p) net.

ICC Oil has acquired from Pritchard Services Group its interests in London Stone and certain of the assets and business of Pritchard Industrial Services.

The consideration will be 21.15m new shares in ICC giving Pritchard 49 per cent of ICC's enlarged equity.

IC Gas falls 6.5%

Turnover of Imperial Continental Gas Association increased 7.4 per cent from £453.14m to £486.71m, but pre-tax profits for the year to the end of March, 1983 were 6.5 per cent lower at £38.5m, compared with £41.18m.

However, after lower tax of £6.08m (£8.6m) minorities and extraordinary debits, attributable profits showed a slight increase from £28.63m to £29.15m.

Earnings per £1 share edged ahead from 22.19p to 22.53p, while the dividend total is raised to 10.8p (9.2p) net with an increased final of 7.6p (6.2p).

The directors say the results of a substantial capital investment and cost reduction programme are already apparent in existing activities.

ICI well up

First-half 1983 taxable profits of Imperial Chemical Industries were more than doubled at £298m, against £145m last time, after second quarter figures up from £128m to £170m. Sales for the six months rose by some £450m to £4.1bn.

Attributable profits at halfway were up from £86m to £187m, after tax of £102m (£46m) and minorities of £9m (£13m). Earnings per £1 share increased from 14.5p to 30.9p and the interim dividend is improved from 9p to 10p net — last year's total was 19p.

After allowing for seasonal

ICI chairman, Mr John Harvey-Jones, who reported more than doubled profits of £298m for the first half of 1983

variations, the group's underlying level of trading remained broadly unchanged during the first and second quarters.

There was a substantial profit improvement in chemicals trading, which resulted from better performances in most businesses compared with the depressed conditions in the first half of 1982.

In particular, agricultural chemicals and pharmaceuticals did well and the loss in petrochemicals and plastics was much reduced.

ICI Australia

A lower volume of sales and continuing import, pressures hit net profits at ICI (Australia) which fell sharply from A$16.98m to A$1.07m for the first six months.

Earnings per share were shown as falling from $9.2 to $0.5.

Turnover fell from $637.26m to $821.75m. Tax fell from $15.5m to $2.08m including investment allowance of $2.01m ($1.72m). Depreciation moved up from $27.17m to $29.03m. Net interest payable came to $16.26m ($13.57m). There were extraordinary losses this time of $2m. Minorities took $1.77m ($2.55m).

Illingworth Morris

Following its downturn from profits of £547,000 to losses of £73,000 at midway, Illingworth Morris, the textiles group, returned to the black in the second half of the year to March 31, 1983, finishing with a pre-tax surplus of £21,000 against £1.29m.

After tax for the 12 months of £71,000 (£262,000) there were losses per 20p share of 0.5p (earnings 2p) and the dividend has been passed, compared with a single payment of 0.75p net last time.

Sales were lower at £77.81m (£101.42m) and trading profits fell from £4.35m to £2.19m. The pre-tax result was after interest of £2.12m (£3.01m) and reorganisation costs of £154,000 (£168,000) but included investment income of £37,000 (£72,000) and associate profits of £75,000 (£42,000).

Minorities amounted to £67,000 (£123,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £1.01m (£485,000), comprising closure costs of £777,000 and legal and professional charges of £231,000, in respect of the company's response to the Abele's offer.

Imperial Group

Interim pre-tax profits of the Imperial Group rose to £79.1m, an increase of 20 per cent over the £65.8m reported for the same period a year ago. Turnover for the half year to April 30, 1983, was little changed at £2.16bn, compared with £2.1bn, excluding disposed businesses and intra group sales.

Given the start made in the first six months the directors expect the percentage increase in group taxable profits for the year as a whole will be ahead of inflation.

The net interim dividend is held at 2.75p — earnings amounted to 7.7p (7p) per 25p share. A final of 4.5p was paid for 1981-82.

The pre-tax result took in a £1m (£0.7m) share of associates' profits and was after interest net of investment income of £14.5m (£22.66m)—the comparable figure also included £5m from disposed businesses.

Tax accounted for £23.2m (£15.3m), minorities £0.1m (same) and extraordinary debits £13.8m (£66.6m), leaving the attributable balance at £42m (£16.2m deficit).

Inchcape Group

Second half profits of the Inchcape Group amounted to £26m to give a total of £50.34m for the year 1982. That compares with £65.69m earned in the previous nine months.

A final dividend of 11p maintains the year's total at 18.15p net.

The directors tell shareholders that measures were taken to improve efficiency, and economies were made in many group companies. It has been necessary to reduce staffing levels.

Turnover for the year came out at £1.7bn, against £1.65bn in the previous nine months. After tax £33.65m (£35.71m) and minorities £6.34m (£5.28m), the net attributable balance is £10.35m (£24.71m) for earnings of 12.1p (29.1p) per share. Extraordinary charges total £5.86m (£2.72m) and the dividend absorbs £15.39m.

Independent Invst.

Income at Independent Investment Company improved from £863,000 to £1.15m in the year to June 30 1983. Franked income was down from £293,000 to £173,000 and unfranked income rose from £570,000 to £980,000. Interest and expenses accounted for £636,000 compared with £471,000. Tax was up from £139,000 to £227,000.

The dividend is unchanged at 0.5p net, and stated earnings per 25p improved from 0.77p to 0.9p.

Harold Ingram

A return to profit—with £3,000 against a loss of £529,000—has been achieved by Harold Ingram in the year ended April 30 1983. And a tax credit of £364,000 (£198,000) pushes up the surplus to £367,000 (loss £331,000). Earnings are shown at 11.1p (loss 10p).

The company, which makes knitted garments, hopes to be in profit for the first half of the current year. Order intake for the second half looks "extremely promising." There are "good grounds" for hoping for a return to dividends this year.

Inn Leisure

In the first six months to the end of March 1983 Inn Leisure Group produced pre-tax profits of £252,000 on turnover of £2.45m. This group, which owns and operates public houses and wine bars, came to the Unlisted Securities Market at the end of 1982.

Half year earnings per 5p share are shown as 0.97p. As forecast in the prospectus a dividend of 0.42p net will be paid for the full year.

Initial pays more

On turnover up by £36.34m to £210.23m the Initial towel, etc. hire and replacement group has raised its profit by £4.19m to £27.11m. The dividend is stepped up from 10.75p to 12.75p net, with a final of 9p.

The attributable profit came out at £17.62m (£14.97m) and earnings were 34.7p (28.6p). The balance was struck after deducting tax £8.21m (£7.32m), minorities £403,000 (£414,000) and extraordinary debits £876,000 (£218,000).

Intl. Distillers

Results for the six months to the end of March 1983 at International Distillers and Vintners, which is a subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan, show sales ahead from £367.62m to £423.57m, and an increase in trading profits from £33.46m to £37.63m.

Associate profits contributed £100,000 (£92,000) and interest payments came to £7.56m (£8.98m). Tax amounted to £5.26m (£2.83m) and minorities took £1.5m (£1.41m).

Intl. Signal

The forecast of $14m pre-tax profits made by International Signal and Control Group in its offer for sale prospectus last October has been exceeded by $1.1m at $15.1m ($9.7m). The comparative figure is $5.32m ($3.42m). Turnover expanded from $75.75m to $107.48m.

The net dividend has been recommended at $0.0225 as forecast—converted earnings per share have been given as rising from 6.23p to 11.56p.

At the operating level profits rose from $11.36m to $18.76m. Tax rose from $2.32m to $6.86m.

Intasun Leisure

As predicted at the interim stage, losses of the Intasun Leisure Group rose in the second six months but at the pre-tax level record profits of £14.53m were recorded for the full year to March 31 1983 compared with £14.08m the previous year.

Similar results to those achieved in 1981-82 were anticipated. The dividend for the past year is being stepped up from 3.5p to 4p net per 10p share by an increased final of 2.6p—earnings expanded by 4.7p to 24.3p per share.

Group liquidity remains strong with cash balances at the end of June of £48m (£38m).

Turnover for 1982-83 rose from £114.12m to £141.66m. Tour pre-tax profits amounted to £7.7m (£8.7m). Airline profits rose to £6.8m (£5.4m).

Investment Co.

Gross income of the Investment Co. rose from £655,000 to £809,000 for the year to March 31, 1983 and pre-tax profits were £136,000 higher at £629,000.

After tax of £160,000 (£137,000) earnings per 25p share improved from 5.1p to 6.73p. The net dividend is repeated at 1.75p per share—a waiver has been received from the registered holder of 3.72m ordinary shares in respect of the proposed final.

Comparisons exclude subsidiaries' results, which were acquired by the ultimate holding company, New Centurion Trust.

Investors Capital

Net revenue at Investors Capital Trust for the six months to the end of May 1983 increased from £105m to £1.16m. Revenue expanded from £2.39m to £3.1m.

The net interim dividend has been held at 1.5p—in the last full year a total of 3.35p was paid. Earnings per 25p share for the half year are shown as rising from 1.64p to 1.82p.

Net assets amounted to £165.5m (£108.59m) which is equivalent to 218.8p (146.4p) per share.

J

John I. Jacobs

Pre-tax profits of shipbroker John I. Jacobs slipped from a restated £805,000 to £737,000 for the first half of 1983 but the net interim dividend is being increased by 0.3p to 1p per 20p share. A final of at least last year's 1.9p is expected.

Comparative figures were restated to reflect the change of accounting policy for related companies adopted to end-December, 1982. This change increased profits before tax for the opening half of 1983 by £125,000.

Turnover for the period totalled £497,000 (£723,000).

Tax took £148,000 (£339,000) but extraordinary items added £1.8m (nil), being a gain after tax on the sale of 19, Great Winchester Street, EC. Earnings emerged at 2.56p (2.02p) a share.

Jacksons Bourne

A final dividend, unchanged at 3p net per share has maintained the total for the year ended March 31, 1983, at 5p for Jacksons Bourne End, while taxable profits for the period have dropped from £152,000 to £45,000.

Turnover of this moulding component manufacturer was also down at £4.75m, compared with £5.26m, the pre-tax figure being after rental income of £194,000 (£116,000) and reorganisation costs £69,000 (nil).

Tax charge was £23,000 (£68,000) and before an extraordinary credit of £69,000 (£21,000) earnings per 25p share are given as 2.1p (7.9p).

J & H B Jackson

First half pre-tax profits at J. & H. B. Jackson, metal merchant, forger and engineer, dipped from £1.69m to £901,000. Turnover in the six months to March 31, 1983, was down from £13.9m to £12.6m. The interim dividend is held at 0.75p—last year's total was 1.65p from pre-tax profits of £3.14m against £2.96m.

In addition, the directors say profits of £1.7m have been realised in the year to date on sales of quoted investments.

First-half tax was down from £880,000 to £468,000. Stated earnings per 5p share fell from 3.37p to 1.79p.

Jamesons Chocolates

A sharp increase in pre-tax profits from £165,000 to £321,000 is reported by Jamesons Chocolates for the first half of 1983. Turnover rose by £0.56m to £3.7m.

Tax took £167,000 (£86,000). The net interim dividend is unchanged at 2p per 10p share—last year's total was 5p on taxable profits of £700,000.

J. Jarvis lower

J. Jarvis and Sons, building and civil engineering contractor, fell further behind in the second six months ended March 31, 1983 to end the year with pre-tax profits of £632,420, against £862,260. Midway figures were down from £275,098 to £202,927.

Earnings per 25p share fell from 49.8539p to 33.6629p, but the dividend total is being improved by 1p to 16p net with a final of 8.8p.

Turnover slipped from £23.93m to £20.43m. After tax of £287,270 (£364,621), the net attributable surplus emerged at £346,587 (£510,593).

Jermyn Investment

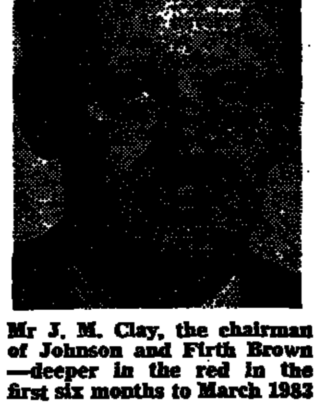
Pre-tax profits of Jermyn Investment Company, property developer and investor, climbed to £63,668 for the year ended January 31, 1983, against £39,300 in the previous 14½ months period. Total income rose from £57,670 to £78,780.

After tax of £10,735 (£3,571) earnings per 25p share increased from 3.57p to 5.29p. The year's net dividend is 1.625p (same for 14½ months). Extraordinary credits rose from £10,183 to £26,653.

Johnson Firth Brown

A £4.91m share of losses from Sheffield Forgemasters in its first year of operation caused Johnson & Firth Brown to fall deeper into the red in the six months to March 31, 1983 with pre-tax losses up from £3.95m to £5.74m.

Turnover for the half year amounted to £50.59m, against £91.74m, while trading profits came out at £976,000 (£514,000), before interest charges of £1.81m (£3.5m). However, because of acquisitions and disposals, the figures are not strictly comparable, the directors point out.



Mr J. M. Clay, the chairman of Johnson and Firth Brown—deeper in the red in the first six months to March 1983

A comparison of half-yearly trading profits for the ongoing JFB Group shows:—steel £434,000 (£658,000); engineering £844,000 (£954,000); less central administration costs £302,000 (£334,000), making £976,000 (£1.28m).

Sheffield Forgemasters is expected to make substantial losses initially—as stated last year—and it is unlikely to contribute significantly to income for at least two years.

Half-time losses per 25p share increased from 4.2p to 5.5p. Following the decision to defer payment of the half-yearly preference dividend due on March 31 1983 there is no ordinary interim dividend.

Net assets per share dropped from 60p to 55p.

Johnson Matthey

An £11.6m fall in pre-tax profits for the year ended March 31 1983 is announced by the Johnson Matthey Group of precious metal refiners, bankers, and chemical makers. After debenture and other interest £11.1m (£2.8m) and depreciation £12.5m (£8.2m), the pre-tax profit came out at £38m (£49.6m). Earnings are shown at 24.5p (27.4p) and a final dividend of 7p maintains the total at 10p.

At the year-end shareholders' funds stood at £331.3m (£303.4m), net current assets £178.2m (£129.1m) and base stocks £73.2m (£73.7m)—if market prices had been used this item would have been £87m (£28.1m) higher.

Johnstone's Paints

Johnstone's Paints has fallen behind in the first half but the directors anticipate that over the whole year profits will equal the previous year's record. The second half should see the opening of at least one new depot, and plans are also under way for the expansion of warehousing capabilities at the factory in Manchester.

For the six months ended May 28 1983 turnover moved up from £4.02m to £4.42m and the profit was £684,000 (£706,000) subject to tax £356,000 (£367,000). The attributable balance came to £330,000 (£340,000) and earnings were 3.12p (3.23p).

The net interim dividend is held at 1.765p.

Edward Jones

Pre-tax losses of Edward Jones Group, building contractor and property developer, for 1982 amounted to £164,000 against £148,000 previously.

Turnover totalled £3.26m (£3.65m) and operating losses, before redundancy and termination payments of £19,000 (£22,000) and aborted costs of £18,000 (nil), were £127,000 (£126,000).

There was a £5,000 (£2,000) tax credit, while losses per 10p share were 3.7p (3.4p) on a net basis and 3.53p (3.34p) on a nil basis. The dividend has again been omitted.

Ernest Jones

Further improvement in merchandising and marketing have enabled Ernest Jones (Jewellers) to achieve increases in volume, turnover and profitability in the half-year ended April 2 1983.

Excluding VAT, turnover rose from £5.73m to £6.61m and profits from £585,000 to £645,000. Earnings are shown at 3.1p (2.8p) and the interim dividend is against 1.4p—certain directors and shareholders have waived £86,494.

Leopold Joseph

Net attributable profit earned by the Leopold Joseph Holdings group moved ahead from £550,000 to £670,000. Net earnings were 25.49p (20.92p) and the dividend is raised from 10.452p to 11.25p, with a final of 9.373p.

Thomas Jourdan

Now that Thomas Jourdan is free from engineering activities, the directors believe that this will be the beginning of a consistent climb in turnover and profits. They regard the acquisition of consumer products and service companies as a priority and expect to be able to make an announcement soon.

For the six months ended July 2, 1983 turnover improved from £2.4m to £2.96m and the profit from £197,000 to £236,000, subject to tax £106,000 (£89,000). Earnings were 2.98p (2.48p).

K

Keep Investment

Losses before tax of the Keep Investment Trust were cut from £1.37m to £0.44m in 1982. The results include Dorada Holdings—acquired in the year—which made a loss of £0.5m for the period.

The directors say that following its acquisition, three loss-making engineering subsidiaries were disposed of as well as one motor dealership. Keep's remaining divisions are investment, specialist engineering, motor retailing and merchanting.

The net deficit for 1982 came out larger at £3.36m (£1.82m), reflecting a sharp rise in extraordinary charges from £0.41m to £2.9m — these included losses against book value on sales of subsidiaries and provisions against the current book values of retained subsidiaries.

Loss per 5p share was 1.13p (3.54p) before extraordinary items, or 8.35p (4.56p) after.

R. Kelvin Watson

Pre-tax profits at R. Kelvin Watson, optician, rose from £457,000 to £805,000 in the year to March 31, 1983. The pre-tax figure includes supplementary National Health Service fees of £265,000 received in the current year—the figure was £119,000 last time.

Turnover improved from £6.47m to £8.1m, and there were trading profits of £540,000 compared with £504,000. The final dividend is raised from 2.2p to 2.7p net for a total of 4p (3.5p). Tax for the year was £244,000 (£190,000), and stated earnings per 10p share climbed from 7.85p to 17.67p.

Kennings Estates

Pre-tax profits at Kennings Estates grew from £772,000 to £1.63m for the six months to March 31 1983. Turnover of this group, which is wholly owned by Kenning Motor Group, and which mainly owns and lets properties, moved ahead from £1.1m to £1.17m.

Trading profits increased from £566,000 to £588,000 and there was a property sales surplus of £1.28m (£233,000). Amortisation and depreciation took £145,000 (£65,000) and interest received came to £30,000 (£157,000). Tax took £100,000 (£180,000).

Kenning Motor

Kenning Motor Group has shown further improvement, and in the half year ended March 31 1983 its turnover rose from £139.8m to £158.39m and pre-tax profit from £2.46m to £4.89m. The profit includes exceptional credits of £280,000 (debits £107,000). The interim dividend is lifted by 0.75p to 2.5p net, partly to reduce disparity with the final—3.75p last year.

Motor depots showed a "marked improvement" although they are not yet trading at an acceptable level. However, the improvement continues and the directors are confident that the depots will, in due course, return to worthwhile profits. The profit for the half-year was split as to UK and Europe £2.42m (£5.76m loss) and Zimbabwe £2.48m (£3.22m).

A. Kershaw

Investment income of A. Kershaw, a subsidiary of the Rank Organisation, fell from £2.13m to £1.52m for the 28 weeks to May 14 1983 and after sundry expenses, profits at the pre-tax level emerged at £1.51m, compared with £2.13m.

Robert Kitchen Taylor

Pre-tax profits of knitwear manufacturer and textile merchant Robert Kitchen Taylor have increased from £614,000 to £733,000 for the six months ended March 31 1983 and have justified directors' expectations.

For the whole of the 1981/82 year profits had climbed to £1.34m (£442,000) pre-tax.

Turnover for the first six months increased to £11.05m, against £10.54m and the interim dividend is maintained at 3p net per 10p share—last year's final payment was 8p. Earnings were 8.5p (7.1p) per share.

Kinta Kellas Rubber

Pre-tax profits of Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates fell slightly from £568,000 to £557,000 for the year to March 31 1983. Turnover rose from £1.45m to £1.65m.

Tax charge was £321,000 (£273,000) and there was an extraordinary credit of £245,000 this time, arising from the disposal of the company's interest in Kinta Kellas Tin Dredging.

Earnings per 10p share before tax and the extraordinary item came out at 5.72p (7.14p) and 11.66p (7.14p). The final dividen is again 3.5p but a special payment of 2p raises the total net payment from 5p to 7p.

Kleen-E-Ze rises

After higher interest payable of £383,000, against £360,000, taxable profits of Kleen-E-Ze Holdings, brushes and cleaning products maker, expanded from £17,000 to £96,000 for the year ended March 31 1983.

Turnover rose from £11.25m to £12.56m and, although the final dividend is lifted from 1.5p to 2p, the total is maintained at 3p net per 25p share.

Tax charge took £42,000 (£56,000) and an extraordinary item debited £5,000 (£165,000).

G & G Kynoch

Reduced pre-tax losses from £217,400 to £103,436 have been shown by G. & G. Kynoch, Banffshire-based woollen cloth manufacturer for the half-year to the end of February, 1983. Turnover increased from £596,000 to £649,000.

Interest payments rose from £15,539 to £32,561. Tax was the same again at £1,462. There is again no dividend—the last payment was a final of 1p in 1981.

L

Ladies Pride

A further slide in profits is reported by Ladies Pride. For the six months to end-May, 1983 they plunged from £164,574 to £73,754 at the pre-tax level and the net interim dividend is being cut by 0.9 to 0.5p per 20p share.

Volume of garment sales for Spring 1983 exceeded slightly those of the corresponding season of 1982 but lower unit selling prices and narrower margins resulted in the "disappointing" profit level. To date there is an upturn in orders for Autumn 1983 at somewhat better prices.

Sales for the half year totalled £3.17m (£3.39m), excluding intergroup. Earnings per share totalled 0.52p (1p).

For the 1981/82 year group profits fell by a half to £313,000 and a final dividend of 2p was paid.

Mr John Van Weyenbergh has been appointed to the main board as managing director.

Lake & Elliot

A further deterioration in most areas of its activities led to sharply increased losses at Lake and Elliot steel castings manufacturer, in the half year to March 31 1983.

Since then, trading conditions have remained very difficult and the company warns of further rationalisation and losses in the second half.

Including redundancy costs of £457,000 (£65,000) group trading losses in the six months increased from £234,000 to £857,000. Discontinued subsidiaries accounted for £285,000 (nil) with £115,000 (£169,000) attributable to ongoing business.

At the pre-tax level, losses jumped from £445,000 to £1.15m after charging interest of £290,000 (£211,000).

Following the passing of last year's final dividend, the 1982-83 interim payment is now omitted (1p last time).

Sales for the half year were little changed at £11.88m (£12m). There is again no tax and an extraordinary debit of £600,000 this time comprised a provision for losses on the discontinuance of business.

James Latham

On lower turnover of £24.5m, compared with £28.85m, timber merchant James Latham returned pre-tax profits of £229,000, against £687,000, for the year to March 31 1983.

Meanwhile, the dividend for 1982-83 is being lifted from 8p to 10p net per £1 share by an increased final of 6.65p. Earnings amounted to 1.8p (19.3p) per share.

Trading profits for the year declined from £1.46m to £920,000. These were subject to depreciation of £249,000 (£245,000) and interest charges of £457,000 (£525,000). They took in a £15,000 (nil) profit on land disposal.

Tax took £105,000 (£122,000), leaving net profits at £124,000 (£565,000).

Law Debenture

Pre-tax revenue of the Law Debenture Corporation slipped from £888,000 to £843,000 for the half-year to end-June 1983, but the interim dividend is held at 2p.

Earnings per 25p share emerged at 2.27p (2.39p) after tax of £321,000 (£341,000). Net asset value totalled 148.9p (121.1p) as at end-December 1982.

Income for the half-year amounted to £1.4m (£1.32m) before expenses of £555,000 (£434,000).

Law Land

Pre-tax profits of property concern, Law Land, a subsidiary of Churchbury Estates, jumped to £2.44m for the year ended March 31 1983 against £1.23m in the previous 15 months. Investment profits leapt from £374,000 to £2.45m, before including a dealing loss of £10,000 (£853,000 surplus).

Earnings per 20p share climbed from 0.58p to 2.74p on investment activities and from 1.75p to 3.28p on investment and dealing activities. The final dividend is 1.6p for a total of 2.3p for the year (2p for 15 months).

Net asset value per share at March 31 1983 were unchanged at 144p.

Property sales during the year amounted to £10.4m, compared with a book value of £10.3m.

LCP Holdings

Including a sharp increase in the trading contribution from U.S. operations, pre-tax profits at L.C.P. Holdings moved ahead from £2.08m to £4.15m for the year to the end of March, 1983. Turnover of this industrial holding company moved ahead from £233.24m to £277.46m.

Trading profits at Whitlock U.S.A. rose from £1.48m to £4.24m.

As predicted at the time of the rights issue last January, the net final dividend has been held at 1.8p, which maintains the total at 3.6p. Net earnings per 25p share are given as moving up from an adjusted 1.4p to 4.4p.

Pre-tax profits for the period under review were struck after higher interest charges of £6.49m against £5.25m. Tax rose from £1.29m to £1.75m. After £68,000 (£100,000) was taken by minorities, and extraordinary credits this time of £143,000 (debits £1.7m), the attributable balance came through as a surplus of £2.47m compared with a previous deficit of £1m.

Leda Trust

Net revenue of the Leda Investment Trust advanced from £105,692 to £120,494 in the first half to June 30, 1983 and the interim dividend is raised from 1.47p to 2.03p net per 20p share. The directors say this is to reduce the disparity with the final which they anticipate will not be less than 3.01p making 5.04p—against 4.76p last time.

Earnings per share are given as 2.42p (2.12p) and the net asset value per 5p capital share as 126.9p (79.2p).

Gross revenue amounted to £220,484 (£191,835) and tax took £59,631 (£50,416).

Arthur Lee

For the six months ended March 31, 1983 Arthur Lee & Sons incurred a loss of £759,000 at the pre-tax level but the net interim dividend is being held at 0.3p per 12½p share. In the corresponding period last year the group made profits of £522,000 but plunged £1.28m into the red in the second half.

The deficit for the half included redundancy costs of £150,000 and a larger share of associate losses of £27,000 (£17,000).

Turnover fell from £31.88m to £28.37m, reflecting the withdrawal by the group from the production of mild steel strip.

Loss per share emerged at 1.75p (1.54p earnings).

Leeds Group

A MARGINAL increase in sales from £4.11m to £4.29m and in pre-tax profits from £504,229 to £508,859 has been shown by Leeds Group for the six months to the end of March 1983. The group is engaged in textiles mail order, oil and gas, and asset leasing.

Liquidity remains substantial according to Mr A Mortimer, chairman, and the net interim dividend has been effectively lifted from 1.25p to 1.5p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as rising from 5.3p to 6.6p.

John J. Lees

Including figures from Heather Cameron Foods for 10 months, taxable profits of John J. Lees, confectionery manufacturer, expanded from £85,000 to £147,000 for the year ended March 31, 1983.

Turnover increased to £2.54m, compared with £2.12m, and the dividend is lifted to 2.8p (2.6p) net with a final payment of 2p.

Tax charge was £41,000 (£9,000), minorities £9,000 (nil) and earnings per 10p share are shown as 9.64p (7.56p).

Leigh Interests

After plunging into the red at halfway, Leigh Interests now reports heavier losses for the year to March 31 1983. The figures show pre-tax losses of £573,000 compared with profits of £413,000. The total dividend is cut from 5.63p to 1p with a final of 0.5p compared with 3.8p net.

Turnover of this Midlands holding company with interests in disposal, treatment and recovery of waste and effluent materials, rose from £26.5m to £28.52m.

The pre-tax loss was after depreciation up from £1.45m to £1.51m and higher interest charges of £855,000 (£639,000) but included associates' profits of £2,000 this time. Tax took £147,000 (£1,000), and there were extraordinary debits of £882,000 (£156,000 credits). The loss per 5p share was 7.2p against earnings of 4.2p.

Lennons Group

Food retailer Lennons Group slumped from taxable profits of £1.48m to £542,000 in the year to April 2, 1983, on turnover ahead of £94.59m compared with £91.89m.

The final dividend is cut from 1.8p to 0.6p net per 10p share making a total of 0.85p (2.65p).

In the second half the group recovered from first half losses of £134,965 (profits £1.26m) with profits of £677,282 (£266,143) and Mr Lennon says he is more optimistic than at the interim stage.

Tax took £141,000 (£454,000) and after extraordinary profits of £249,000 (£100,000).

LEP Group

Substantially lower results at LEP Group reflect world-wide recession say the directors. Pre-tax profits fell sharply from £5.59m to £2.6m for 1982 although turnover of this international freight forwarder expanded from £71.12m to £78.15m.

The directors explain that despite the downturn they are maintaining the final dividend at 13.5p, making a total of 17.5p (same), in view of the financial strength of the group.

Earnings per 10p share are shown as dropping from 41.7p to 6.6p on a net basis, and from 50p to 14.9p on a nil basis.

Lex Service

Increased demand in the UK passenger car market and the U.S. electronics industry has boosted Lex Service. In the half year ended July 3 1983 turnover has risen from £317.6m to £406m and the profit before tax has shot up from £10.3m to £17.5m.

Forward orders in those key markets for the third quarter are "very encouraging." In the group's other markets conditions remain extremely competitive, although all major businesses are producing results "well ahead" of last year. For the year, the directors believe that the overall improvement in profitability will be maintained.

The profit was arrived at after distribution selling costs £32.6m (£28.9m), administration expenses £22.6m (£18.8m) and interest £1.5m (£2.3m). earnings are 17.85p (11.43p) and the interim dividend is raised to 3.75p (3.1p).

Continued on next page

Alan Friedman talks to a reflective Hambros chief

Write-offs make for poor year

"IT'S A LOUSY year which one has got to put behind one." With these words Mr John Clay, deputy chairman of Hambros Bank, sat back in his chair in the wood-panelled splendour of the group's Bishopsgate headquarters.

Mr Clay was in a philosophical mood reflecting on the nearly £40m of shipping and gas write-offs (before tax relief) which Hambros had to make for the year which ended March 31.

The ghost of Hambros Bank's unhappy Reksten shipping affair in Norway, now a decade old, continues to haunt the elite accepting house and with the latest £10.5m write-off, the bank has now provided more than £70m for shipping losses.

Last year was certainly a poor one for Hambros, with after-tax rofits declining to £9.4mp from a 1982 level of £11.8m and a 1981 level of £15.3m. Given the huge provisions on shipping and gas/oil exploration it is clear that the group would have suffered a heavy loss for last year (close to £20m) had it not been for a £23.7m extraordinary gain on the sale of shares in Hambro Life Assurance in February.

With the shipping write-offs already in mind, Hambros reduced its stake in Hambro Life from 37 to 25.4 per cent, raising £39m gross at the time. What the group has never disclosed is the size of its hidden reserves (disclosed reserves are around £110m, including Hambro Life at cost).

It is believed that the group's hidden reserves do not amount to a great deal more than £20m to £30m, suggesting that the realisation of £23.7m of cash from the Hambro Life sale was more than necessary.

The 1982-83 provisions included an £18.9m write-off on Hambro Gas and Oil, and Mr Clay said he hoped this would be the last of these provisions. He said the same about the £21m shipping provisionsu (£10.5m net).

The banking division showed an after-tax profit of £7.4m, which was almost identical to the previous year's figure and came after a bad debt provision of more than £3m. The bank's corporate finance and Eurobond divisions each contributed roughly around £1.5m last year.

The Eurobond business was hit during the year by the mass defection of several key executives to Enskilda Securities, and Mr Clay acknowledges that there was scope for further "rebuilding" of this part of the bank.

Insurance broking picked up to £2.1m (£1.6m) and the group's diamond operations finally came out of the red with a £400,000 contribution (against a £1.2m loss). Advertising profits were more than halved to £800,000 and the oil and gas business showed a £1.9m loss (against a £300,000 profit).

But Hambro Life remained the mainstay of the group's profits, with a £5.9m profit (£5.1m) and many stockbrockers continue to regard the Life stake as the "only surviving jewel in a rusty crown."

One City analyst sighed when asked about Hambros and said it was probably time to buy shares "because they can't do much worse." Another said: "I think they're in a mess, but having said that I've been buying the shares on a recovery view."

The group certainly has a great deal of scope for improvement, but Mr Clay would not single out a particular division which needed attention. Unlike Hill Samuel, the diversified merchant bank which entered the 1980s with numerous improvements needed—and has been very successful in the last three years—Hambros will need to improve from the centre, according to Mr Clay.

There are no magic formulae, said the deputy chairman. What is the aHmbros strategy, then, for its recovery? "We've got to get it right," answered Mr Clay.

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Continued

Lincroft Kilgour

For the six months ended March 31 1983 taxable profits of cloth merchanting and menswear manufacturer, Lincroft Kilgour Group jumped from £29,649 to £362,241 and the interim dividend is reintroduced at 1p net per 10p share. Last year's final was 2p and pre-tax profits were £380,000.

Turnover amounted to £3.62m (£3.86m for the half year) and after tax of £120,373 (£22,496) earnings per share are shown as 4.98p (0.12p). Net assets per share are given as 94.29p, compared with 87.36p.

After minorities and extraordinary items, the attributable balance came out at £233,694 (£331,887).

Linfood near £17m

For the 53 weeks ended April 30 1983 profits of Linfood Holdings have reached £16.98m, against not less than £16.5m forecast and £11.93m achieved in the previous year.

Sales were £910.07m (£1.04bn). The final dividend is the promised 10p for a net total of 16p (12p). Earnings are given as 25.8p (19.9p) and net tangible assets as 135.6p (128.7p).

Retail companies contributed £12.61m and they all achieved record figures with Gateway trading exceptionally well. Retail sales are continuing to grow very strongly in the current year and this augurs well for the integration of Key Markets.

Cash and Carry performed disappointingly, the major factors to its profit setback being the adverse stock results of £580,000 and a once only mark down in stock values of £188,000 that arose as the direct result of instituting a standard accounting basis throughout the operation.

The goodwill arising on the acquisition of Key Markets is "considerably smaller" than initially anticipated.

F. H. Lloyd

After exceptional debits of £68,000, compared with £508,000, pre-tax profits of F.H. Lloyd Holdings emerged at £635,000 for the 52 weeks to April 2, 1983, against £815,000 for the previous 53 weeks. The dividend is held at 1p net.

Sales declined from £70.22m to £66.64m and operating profits fell from £2.59m to £1.63m. These were made up as to foundries £580,000 (£1.51m), steel £16,000 (£118,000) and engineering services and international £1.03m (£961,000).

Pre-tax figures were also after lower interest charges of £925,000 (£1.26m). Tax took £119,000 (£160,000), minorities £89,000 (£125,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £5.26m (£221,000), being closure costs.

Lloyds Bank

After an increased provision for bad and doubtful debts of £19.8m compared with £62.1m, taxable profits of Lloyds Bank slipped from £202.8m to £193.7m in the first half to June 30 1983.

The interim dividend is being raised from 9.92p to 10.66p net per £1 share with earnings given at 65p (78.6p) basic and 64.1p (76.6p) fully diluted. Last year a total payout of 24.58p was made.

The directors say there are some welcome signs of economic recovery but this has not yet brought significant relief to companies and countries in difficulty, so provisions for bad and doubtful debts are again high. Neverthe less many parts of the business produced good results and profits recovered from the lower level of the previous second half.

Interest income amounted to £2.08bn (£2.1bn) and interest expense was £1.46bn (£1.51bn) leaving net interest of income £626.4m (£585.8m). Other operating profits fell from £208.7m to £196m net, and associates contributed £16.8m (£15.2m).

After tax of £64m (£51.3m), minorities of £4.2m (£2.6m) and extraordinary debits of £1.8m (nil) the attributable profits came to £123.7m (£148.9m). A change in accounting policy on foreign currency translation to bring it in line with SSAP 20 reduced taxable profits by £11m.

Thos. Locker

As expected, profits of Thomas Locker (Holdings) amount to £2.49m for the year ended March 31, 1983, compared with £2.36m, from sales of £27.12m (£21.63m). This year there is included in the profit £441,000 relative to Associated Perforators and Weavers, acquired in April, 1982. The dividend is 1.29p net (1.17p), with an unchanged final of 0.92p.

The group is engaged in scientific and filtration engineering and wire weaving. Tax takes £1.01m (£1.25m), minorities £72,000 (£154,000) and there is an extraordinary charge of £209,000 (£56,000) being net costs of restructuring group activities in fine wire weaving and wire products. Earnings came to 3.51p (2.41p) per share.

Lombard N. Central

Despite a much higher (but undisclosed) provision for bad and doubtful debts, Lombard North Central has pushed up its pre-tax profit from £22.7m to £29m for the half-year ended March 31 1983.

The company is the instalment credit and leasing subsidiary of National Westminster Bank. The higher provision reflects an increase in outstanding balances and the general economic climate, but the directors are satisfied that the group's provisions are adequate to cover any foreseeable losses.

London & Associated

Pre-tax profits of London and Associated Investment Trust, finance company, advanced from £165,000 to £238,000 for 1982 and the dividend is returned at 0.167p net per 10p share.

Pre-tax figure included associates share of £67,000 (£78,000) but was after interest £48,000 (£63,000). Earnings per share are shown as 0.82p (0.65p).

London & Lomond

Pre-tax revenue at London & Lomond Investment Trust rose from £567,854 to £586,586 in the half-year to June 30, 1983. Gross revenue was £1.04m compared with £750,258. Tax for the six months was up from £185,029 to £201,265.

Net asset value per 25p stock unit after deducting prior charges at par was 123p (87.5p as at December 31, 1982). designed to attract shareholders who prefer capital appreciation over income.

Interest payments for the year under review amounted to £353,000 (£103,000). Tax rose from £393,000 to £1.24m, and after minorities, attributable profits emerged ahead from £1.43m to £1.69m. Extraordinary debits fell from £963,000 to £547,000. Earnings per share moved up from 8.6p to 9.1p.

As expected last April the final dividend has been held at 4.85p which repeats the total of 7.75p net.

Ldn. & M'chester Secs.

Pre-tax profits of £220,000 compared with losses of £143,000 are reported by London and Manchester Securities, the company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market following a reverse take-over of Carlton Real Estates earlier this year.

These results were achieved on turnover little changed at £1.28m (£1.27m), but despite the improved performance, the directors are not recommending payment of a dividend.

Earnings per share were 1.48p against a loss of 1.85p in 1981. Tax for the year was down from £19,000 to £9,000, and after minorities of £15,000 this time, retained profits emerged at £196,000 (£162,000 losses).

London & Northern

Terms have been agreed for the purchase by London and Northern Group of the British Technology Group's (BTG) 65.7 per cent equity holding in United Medical Enterprises (UME), which has been held by the National Enterprise Board.

The consideration payable to BTG for its interest places an initial value on the whole of the share capital of UME of approximately £25m, including an interim dividend for 1983 payable under the sale agreement.

Further consideration which is likely to be payable, would place a total value on UME in excess of £28m. The total proceeds attributable to BTG are likely to be in excess of £18m.

L & O Freighters

Tramp ship owner, operator and manager London & Overseas Freighters plunged further into the red in the year to March 31 1983, with taxable losses of £12.52m compared with £1.84m. The dividend for the 12 months is again being missed, with losses per share given as rising from 4.2p to 25.9p.

Trading losses amounted to £6.9m (£3.61m) and there were losses on the disposal of vessels and aircraft of £2.53m (surplus £309,000). There was no tax charge (£137,000) and after extra-ordinary redundancy costs of £1.13m (nil) the attributable losses emerged at £14.58m (£2.32m).

The directors say the company is now totally committed to the tanker market, but is not alone in anticipating a more pronounced recovery in tanker freight rates over the next few years, particularly for modern efficiently-managed vessels, than in the dry bulk trades.

Lon. Scot. Finance

On a pro-rata basis profits before tax at London Scottish Finance Corporation expanded by 76 per cent from £582,000 for the previous 39-week period to £684,000 for the 26 weeks to April 26 1983. The directors point out that the comparative period was affected by high interest rates and severe weather conditions.

Turnover of this Manchester-based group which is engaged in banking, consumer credit, debt collection, television rental and other financial services, showed a fall from £6.32m to £4.87m.

The net interim dividend has been declared at 0.75p, against the equivalent of 0.6p for the comparative period. In the last full 65-week period a total equivalent to 2.1333p was paid, after allowing for a one-for-two scrip, from pre-tax profits of £1.35m on turnover of £11.27m.

Finance costs fell from £897,000 to £504,000. Tax amounted to £212,000 (£160,000) leaving net profits up from £422,000 to £472,000, from which dividends will absorb £137,000 (£107,000). The balance retained improved from £314,500 to £335,000.

London Cremation

Pre-tax profits of London Cremation Company rose from £61,457 to £93,484 for the year ended March 31, 1983, and a final dividend of 4p lifts the total payment from 5p to 6p.

The company's programme of expenditure on modernising buildings and equipment will continue, directors say, with a sum in excess of £100,000 being required for this purpose over the next two or three years.

London Pavilion

Including much higher other income of £42,000, against £16,000, taxable profits of London Pavilion went ahead from £4,000 to £20,000 for 1982.

The result was after administration expenses of £22,000 against £28,000 and subject to tax of £1,000 (£3,000).

Again there is no dividend. Earnings per share are shown as 14.86p (1.23p).

London Private Health

In the year to March 31 1983 Unlisted Securities Market quoted London Private Health Group slumped from taxable profits of £41,500 to £9,300 on higher turnover of £1.16m, compared with £664,000.

After a tax credit of £900 (charge £1,000), the attributable profits of this private hospital operator emerged at £10,200 (£40,500) and the stated earnings per share at 0.3p (2p), or at 0.2p (1.5p) fully diluted.

Longton Industrial

Heavier pre-tax losses of £183,000 compared with £136,000, are reported by Longton Industrial Holdings for the year to March 31 1983. Turnover improved by £2.1m to £39.8m. There was a tax credit of £15,000 against £23,000, but extraordinary debits amounted to £419,000—in the previous year the total was £588,000.

The loss per 25p share was higher at 4.5p against 3.6p. The dividend is unchanged at 1p net.

Lonrho growth

The directors of Lonrho reaffirm their confidence that profit before tax for the year to September 30 1983 will rise from the previous £75m to over £100m.

For the first six months turnover has risen from £1.08bn to £1.11bn, and profit before tax from £37.8m to £43.4m.

There is an extraordinary charge of some £6m which includes the sale of two loss-making operations, the Sir Francis Drake hotel in San Francisco for $25m and the Hadfields steel making interests for some £10m.

The improvement in half year profitability arises significantly from the UK holdings and from commodity based activities in gold, platinum and sugar.

Lookers improve

Much-improved results for the half year to the end of March, 1983, have been produced by Lookers, according to the directors. Pre-tax profits increased from £192,000 to £362,000 on turnover ahead from £32.91m to £70.95m.

The net interim dividend has been held at 1.4p—in the last full year a final of 2.45p was also paid. Earnings per 25p share for the period under review are shown as rising from 2.6p to 4.9p.

After tax of £118,000 (credit £31,000) and extraordinary credit this time of £118,000, attributable profits emerged ahead from £192,000 to £480,000.

Robert Lowe

The directors of Robert H. Lowe, maker and supplier of sports and casual wear, have decided against paying an interim dividend in respect of the year ending September 30 1983. Including £30,519 balance of reorganisation costs, the pre-tax loss for the first half has gone up from £79,193 to £114,644, equal to 3.64p (2.53p) per share.

A significant part of the loss is attributable to the transfer print business which failed to reach expectations, and in addition incurred a material bad debt. In the year 1981-82 the group ran up a loss of £490,562 but held its dividend total at 3.265p—interim 0.665p.

Y. J. Lovell ahead

From turnover of £71m, against £67.34m, building contractor Y.J. Lovell has raised its profit from £1.15m to £1.37m in the half year ended March 31, 1983. On the timber side there was a profit of £30,000, compared with a loss of £113,000. The interim dividend is stepped up to 1.25p (1.125p), from earnings of 7.4p (7p).

LRC up 36%

Pre-tax profits at LRC, the home, health care and photo processing group, improved by 36 per cent from £9.01m to £12.21m in the year to March 31, 1983. Sales to customers outside the group rose from £118.4m to £144.04m, and trading profits improved from £10.72m to £13.9m.

The pre-tax figure was after interest payable, less receivable, of £1.69m (£1.72m). Tax was considerably higher at £4.16m compared with £1.17m. Minorities were down from £42,000 to £22,000 and there were extraordinary debits of £2.3m (£2.13m), leaving attributable profits little changed at £5.73m (£5.67m).

The final dividend is raised from 2.05p to 2.2p net for a total of 3.25p against 2.75p. After dividends of £2.93m (£2.47m), retained profits were £2.8m (£3.2m), and stated earnings per 10p share were 8.23p (8.7p) before extraordinary items, and 8.23p (5.88p) after. The directors are confident that the current year will produce a further advance in sales and profits, and a one-for-ten scrip issue is proposed.

Lynton Holdings

Pre-tax profits of property investment and development group Lynton Holdings were little changed at £1.41m compared with £1.48m, for the year to March 31, 1983.

The dividend, however, is being stepped up by more than 25 per cent, from 3.75p to 4.75p net per 20p share by an increased final of 2.93p—earnings per share amounted to 9.35p, against 7.9p.

Net rental income from investment properties totalled £2.61m (£2.43m).

Investment properties were valued at the year end at £46.3m, resulting in a surplus of £5.85m. This increased the net assets per share to 346p (295p).

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Macarthys Pharms.

A rise in second-half taxable profits from £2.17m to £2.36m at Macarthys Pharmaceuticals produced little changed full year figures of £4.06m, against £4.09m before. Sales for the 12 months to April 30, 1983 increased from £215.11m to £265.49m.

The final dividend is again 5p net for an unchanged total of 7p per 20p share. Earnings per share were 1p lower at 21.2p. Tax took £1.24m (£1.14m), and minorities last time accounted for £3,000. Extraordinary credits decreased from £214,000 to £61,000.

The directors say business in the first months of the current year has been brisk in most group divisions.

Donald Macpherson

Paint-maker Donald Macpherson Group turned in pre-tax profits of £74,000 for the 26 weeks ended May 1 1983, compared with losses of £390,000 last time. For the whole of 1981/82 there was a taxable surplus amounting to £1.35m.

Sales for the first half rose from £49.45m to £53.11m and trading profits of £1.02m (£433,000) were split as to: UK £304,000 (£152,000) and overseas £713,000 (£281,000).

Pre-tax figure was after exchange losses of £24,000 (£16,000), interest charges, up from £782,000 to £919,000, and associate losses last time, of £25,000.

Tax took £445,000 (£335,000) and after minority interests of £90,000 (£18,000) the attributable figure was a £461,000 loss (£743,000). Loss per 25p share is given as 2.5p (4.1p). The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p net—last year's final payment was 2.7p.

Maddock

For the year ended June 30 1982 taxable losses of Maddock, tin-mining and hotel and catering concern, fell from £32,710 to £21,036 and the dividend is again omitted.

After tax, £3,048 (nil) and extraordinary credits of £16,319 (£45,883 debits) the attributable loss came through much lower at £7,765, against £78,593.

Magnet & Southerns

Magnet and Southerns, the manufacturer of prepared joinery, doors and ancillary products, raised its taxable profits from £19.11m to £24.59m, in the year to March 31 1983, after an advance from £10.58m to £12.07m at the half-way stage.

The year's dividend is being lifted from 3.33p (adjusted for scrip) to 3.9p net with a final of 2.2p (2p adjusted). Stated earnings per 25p share moved ahead from an adjusted 7.4p to 9.6p.

Turnover advanced from £136.35m to £161.59m. Tax took £8.7m (£6.94m) and after an overseas deferred tax credit of £3,447 (£1,025) net profits were £15.9m (£12.16m). Extraordinary debits of £55,439 (credits £72,166) left available profits of £15.84m (£12.24m) from which dividends absorbed £6.7m (£5.36m) including preference payments of £56,182 (same).

Malaysia Rubber

Year-end pre-tax profits at the Malaysia Rubber Company improved from £112,002 to £129,837, and this included dividends from associates up from £76,143 to £104,000. The final dividend for the year to March 31 1983 is increased by 1p to 3.5p for a total up from 3.5p to 4.5p net.

Tax took £39,275 compared with £38,504. Stated earnings per 10p share improved from 4.36p to 5.03p. All comparatives have been restated.

M G Dual Trust

Pre-tax revenue at M & G Dual Trust, split level investment trust company, rose from £774,993 to £821,379 in the six months to June 30 1983 and the interim dividend is raised from 9.4p to 10p net—last year's total was 21.75p from pre-tax revenue of £1.79m. First half tax was slightly higher at £246,514 compared with £232,616.

The directors forecast a final dividend of at least 12.8p (12.35p). Asset value of 10p capital shares was 712.96p at June 30.

Mansfield Brewery

Following the half-time rise from £4.04m to £4.31m, pre-tax profits of Mansfield Brewery increased to £7.96m for the year to April 1, 1983 compared with £7.18m. Turnover was up £6.41m to £62.02m.

After tax of £1.97m (£2.59m) earnings per £1 share rose by 9.1p to 38.6p. The dividend is stepped up from 5.25p to 6.75p net with a final of 4.65p.

Marinex in loss

After charging an exceptional debit of £3.58m, Marinex Petroleum incurred a pre-tax loss of £4.17m in 1982, against a profit of £139,000 previously. The company, which is unquoted, has also announced a rights issue, on the terms four ordinary for every nine held at 50p per share.

Marley climbs

A substantial increase from £3.67m to £10.27m in pre-tax profits was achieved by Marley in the six months to June 30 1983 and the directors say this "encouraging level" confirms the confidence that was expressed in the last annual report.

Turnover of this manufacturer and retailer of products for the building trade rose from £193.62m to £236.22m, with the UK contribution increasing from £123.69m to £156.54m. Trading profits improved from £11.38m to £15.94m. The interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.2p.

The pre-tax figure was struck after interest charges down from £7.67m to £5.96m, and associates profits of £287,000 (£57,000 loss). After tax of £4.38m (£2.58m) and minorities of £117,000 (£84,000), attributable profits climbed from £1.01m to £5.79m. Stated earnings per 25p share rose from 0.4p to 2.8p.

Marling Inds.

Pre-tax profits of industrial textile manufacturer Marling Industries finished the year to March 31, last £1m lower at £575,000 after falling from £737,000 to £398,000 at the mid-way stage.

The dividend is held at 1.08p net by a same-again final of 0.61p — earnings emerged at 2.48p (10.56p) per 10p share. The directors say profits are running at a "pleasing" level after a difficult year.

Turnover for 1982-83 totalled £26.07m (£22.17m). Pre-tax surplus was after interest of £564,000 (£678,000) and a £13,000 share of associate losses (£31,000 profits).

Marshalls Halifax

An increase in pre-tax profits from £2.86m to £3.54m has been shown by Marshalls Halifax for the year to the end of March 1983. Sales of this concrete product maker, quarry owner and specialised engineer moved ahead from £40.11m to £47.25m.

The net final dividend has been lifted by 1p to 5p which leaves the total ahead at 6p (5p). Earnings per 25p share moved up from 14.22p to 17.19p.

Marston Thompson

Taxable profits of brewer and wine and spirit merchant, Marston, Thompson & Evershed, increased from £6.09m to £6.86m for the year to March 31 1983, on turnover of £46.2m, against £41.14m. Sales volume rose by 3.2 per cent, representing an increase in ales and lagers in both tied and free trade.

The directors report that the first few months of the current financial year have been difficult, owing to adverse weather conditions, but the company is still holding its market share.

With stated yearly earnings per 25p share up from 6.89p to 7.26p, the dividend total is being raised to 2.329p (2.07p) by a final of 1.559p net. A one-for-two scrip issue is also proposed.

Attributable profits came out at £3.97m (£3.87m) after tax of £3.13m (£2.56m) and extraordinary credits of £242,000 (£343,000).

Martin the Newsagent

Increased interim pre-tax profits have been shown by Martin the Newsagent from £2.62m to £2.86m for the 26 weeks to April 3, 1983. Turnover of this newsagent, tobacconist, confectioner, and stationer, excluding VAT, amounted to £74.66m, up from the comparative figure of £63.01m.

The net interim dividend will be lifted from an adjusted 2.18p to 2.4p—in the last full year a total equivalent to 5.78p was paid.

Pre-tax profits included interest payments of £424,000 (£198,000). Tax amounted to £744,000 (£500,000) and there were higher extraordinary credits this time of £150,000 (£26,000). Earnings per 25p share were given as the same-again at 16p.

May & Hassell

Timber importer May & Hassell turned round from pre-tax losses of £656,000 to profits of £728,000 in the year to March 31 1983, after producing first-half profits of £126,000 compared with losses of £218,000.

With earnings per 25p share given as 11p (losses 8.98p) the final dividend is being raised from 1.5p to 2.5p net, making a higher total of 3.8p against 2.8p.

In the year under review turnover advanced from £49.71m to £60.64m and trading profits rose from £1.94m to £3.06m. Interest charges were down at £2.27m (£2.32m), and there were associate losses of £65,000 (£278,000).

After tax of £17,000 (credit £46,000), minority credits of £36,000 (£76,000) and extraordinary debits of £83,000 (£52,000) attributable profits emerged at £698,000 (losses £678,000).

McLeod Russel

Turnover of McLeod Russel more than doubled at £59.76m, against £25.79m, in the year to March 31, 1983, while pre-tax profits jumped from £1.57m to £4.94m.

Earnings per £1 share climbed from 1.07p to 14.95p, while the net dividend is lifted to 10p per share, against 7.5p previously. A one-for-two scrip issues is also proposed.

The pre-tax results included a share of associates' profits of £906,000 (£375,000 losses). At the attributable level, there was a surplus of £1.8m (£1.58m deficit) after tax of £3.43m (£963,000), extraordinary credits of £735,000 (£1.82m debits) and minorities.

McCorquodale

In the half year ended March 31 1983 McCorquodale, the world-wide specialist printer, pushed up its profit by 16 per cent to £3.51m. Sales increased from £49.2m to £55.79m.

Associates contributed £1.4m, compared with £608,000, to the profit. Overseas companies continued to perform well with particularly strong contributions from the Brazilian and South African associates, although the sterling/cruzeiro exchange rate is still deteriorating rapidly.

In the UK the trading profit has borne redundancy costs of £433,000 (£138,000), reflecting the continuing drive to ensure the most efficient and productive organisation for al lt he group's operations.

After tax £1.21m (£1.02m) and extraordinary credits £660,000 (debits £906,000), the available profit was £2.96m (£1.1m) and earnings 14.08p (12.31p). In the year ended September 30 1982 the group made a preltax profit of £6.2m and paid a total dividend of 9p.

Meggitt Holdings

The loss attributable at Meggitt Holdings, machine tool distributor, was down from £248,000 to £140,000 in the six months to April 30, 1983. No dividend is again payable.

Group turnover was lower at £2.04m compared with £2.04m. Again no tax was payable. The loss per 5p share is given as 3.2p (5.7p).

Meldrum Investment

Net available revenue of Meldrum Investment Trust fell slightly from £416,796 to £412,398 for the half year to June 30, 1983. Gross revenue amounted to £693,290, against £687,685.

After tax of £203,712 (£209,094) earnings per 25p share were 2.05p, compared with 2.07p.

Net asset value per share increased from 116p to 163p.

MEPC advances

FOR THE six months ended March 31 1983 MEPC, the London-based property investment, development and trading group, raised its pre-tax profits by £4.5m to £19.1m compared with the first half of the previous year.

In his interim report Sir Gerald Thorley, the chairman, says the results indicate that earnings for the full year will continue to rise—the group made £33.37m (£26.8m) for 1981-82.

Earnings for the half-year under review emerged at 5.2p (4.7p) per 25p share and the net interim dividend is a same-again 2p, absorbing £4.09m.

Gross rental income and other charges amounted to £50.44m, against £41.16m, and other income added a further £5.37m, compared with £5.31m.

Pre-tax figures were struck after deducting £21.03m (£17.27m) property outgoings and other charges, £19.26m (£17.61m) for the cost of finance and adding £3.07m (£3.01m) being the transfer of an amount equivalent to interest and other outgoings applicable to development properties.

Tax took £2.31m more at £8.34m, leaving net profits at £10.76m, compared with £8.57m.

Mercantile House

For the year to April 30, 1983 Mercantile House Holdings returned profits of £44.72m at the pre-tax level, compared with £14.4b the previous year. Turnover totalled £294.67m (£73.15m).

A final dividend of 15p lifts the net total from 14p to 20p per 25p share. A scrip issue on a one-for-one basis is also proposed.

Profit includes eight and a half months of the Oppenheimer group and a full 12 months of Rouse Woodstock and Cosmorex.

Earnings per share amounted to 73.72p (41.08p) undiluted and 69.83p (41.08p) fully diluted. Shareholders' funds totalled £131.3m (£30.9m), including intangibles of £86.9m (£19.4m).

Pre-tax figures included £20.21m (nil) from the stockbroking and trading division and £9.66m (£5.88m) from the U.S. fixed interest broking sector.

Mercury Securities

For the year ended March 31, 1983 attributable profits of Mercury Securities, which is involved in merchant banking, emerged £3.69m higher at £17.25m and the dividend is being stepped up from 7.7p to 9.5p net per 25p share.

The figures were struck after allowing for tax, minorities of £374,000, compared with £4.22m, and transfers by S. G. Warburg & Co. to inner reserve.

Included was the whole of the profit of S. G. Warburg & Co. but no profit relating to Warburg's former holding in Paribas-Warburg S.A. This reflects the previously-announced exchange of the reciprocal investments with Compagnie Financiere de Paribas.

Mersey Docks

A rights issue and a note to raise about £811,000 net has been announced by Mersey Docks and Harbour Co. along with results for 1982. Pre-tax losses amounted to £423,846 against £362,148, on turnover down from £1.44m to £1.27m.

The rights issue will amount to 2.34m new ordinary stock units of £1 on the basis of one new ordinary unit of 33 pence per ordinary unit for every three ordinary held, and will raise some £700,000 net.

The sale is the group's Milford Hydrocarbons.

Trading losses grew from £120,640 to £235,884 after which depreciation took £117,128 (£127,424). Interest increased from £29,076 to £60,822. Exceptional debits were reduced from £85,008 to £10,012.

Tax credits came to £64,000 (£81,186). Losses per share were given at 46.13p (36.02p).

Metal Box

Partly as a result of a recovery in some UK operations but more significantly from the sustained contribution of the overseas division, taxable profits of Metal Box, packaging containers and central heating equipment concern, expanded by 30.6 per cent

Mr Denis Allport, the Metal Box chairman, who reported a 30.6 per cent advance in full year profits

from £40.2m to £52.5m for the year ended March 31, 1983.

At halfway profits had slipped from £17.8m to £14m.

Turnover for the 12 months moved ahead by 16.6 per cent to £1.39bn (£1.2bn) and the dividend is maintained at 11.55p net per £1 share with a same-again final of 6.51p.

The directors say that some of the benefits are beginning to show from the group's efforts to improve efficiency and they are hopeful that the momentum of its improvement during the 12 months will be maintained.

Tax charge was £17.2m (£18.2m), minorities £16.1m (£9.6m) and extraordinary items debited £17.1m (£30.3m). Dividends will absorb £8.8m (same) leaving a loss of £6.7m (£26.7m).

Meyer Intl.

Pre-tax profits of £21.6m and a recommended final of 2.25p making 3.75p, a 7 per cent increase over the indicated total, were shown by Meyer International for the year to the end of March 1983. The profit figure compares with £0.85m—comparative figures are presented on a proforma basis as if the merger between Montague L. Meyer and International Timber had taken place with effect from April 1 1981.

Turnover amounted to £536.16m (£484.49m). At the operating level profits increased from £12.41m to £29.04m. Interest took £10.94m (£13.45m). Tax amounted to £6.61m (£618,000). Extraordinary debits this time came to £4.9m (credits £1.72m) which left an attributable balance of £10.09m against 1.96m.

MFI 112% rise

For the 52 weeks ended May 28 1983 pre-tax profits of MFI Furniture Group soared to £30.4m, an improvement of over 112 per cent over the previous year's adjusted £14.32m, with the second six months' contribution up from last time's £7.2m to £19.12m.

Trading in the current year is running at a "satisfactory" level and another successful year is anticipated. Meanwhile, the dividend for 1982-83 is being lifted by 31 per cent (2.8p) net by a final of 2.3p—earnings amounted to 9.58p (5.74p) per 10p share.

Sales continued at a very satisfactory level throughout the period, with trading margins unchanged and negligible price increases—turnover rose from £176.08m to £246.33m.

Micro Focus Group

In its first interim figures since its entry on to the Unlisted Securities Market, Micro Focus Group reports profits of £747,000 against losses of £308,000. Mr Brian Reynolds, the chairman, says these figures are above expectation.

Turnover for the six months to May 31, 1983, improved from £1.12m to £3.61m. After tax this time of £375,000 and preference dividends for Finance for Industry totalling £9,000, retained profits came out at £363,000 (£308,000 losses). Stated earnings per 10p share were 5p (4.7p losses).

Microgen Holdings

Microgen Holdings, whose shares were placed on the Unlisted Securities Market in January, reports a 51 per cent increase from £271,000 to £409,000 in pre-tax profits for the six months to April 30 1983. This has been achieved on turnover up 27 per cent from £1.31m to £1.67m.

An interim dividend of 2p net is being paid, as forecast in the placing prospectus.

He expects the growth in turnover and profit to continue.

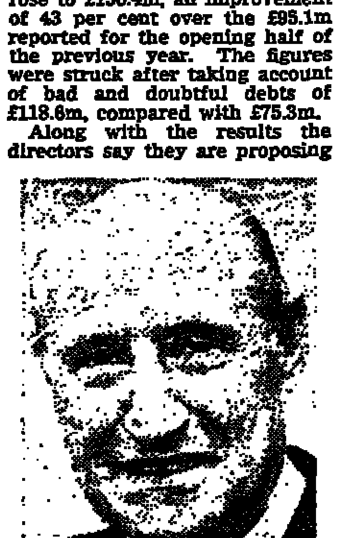
Tax provision for the first half was £213,000 (£141,000) and after an extraordinary debit—the cost of placing the shares—of £62,000, attributable profits emerged at £134,000 (£130,000).

Stated earnings per share were up from 4.45p to 6.71p before extraordinary items.

Midland Bank

For the first half of 1983 taxable profits of the Midland Bank rose to £136.4m, an improvement of 43 per cent over the £95.1m reported for the opening half of the previous year. The figures were struck after taking account of bad and doubtful debts of £118.6m, compared with £75.3m.

Along with the results the directors say they are proposing



Midland Bank chairman, Sir Donald Barron—making a cash call for £154.6m

to raise £154.6m by way of a one-four-four rights issue at 350p a share.

The net half yearly dividend is being stepped up from 8p to 11p, to reduce disparity between the first and second interims, and it is anticipated that dividends for the full year, on the enlarged capital, will be no less than the 25.5p paid in respect of 1982.

The provisions were made up as to £90.9m (£60.7m) specific and £27.7m (£14.6m) general.

Earnings per share for the first half emerged at 44.6p (28.9p) basic and at 43.7p (27.3p) fully diluted.

Midland Trust

For the year to end-June, 1983, profits of the Midland Trust rose from £284,312 to £304,145 after all charges, including tax of £130,347, compared with £123,378.

Earnings per 25p share emerged at 7.2p (6.73p) and the dividend is being lifted from 6.3p to 6.755p net by a final of 4.165p. Net asset value per ordinary amounted to 182p (138p).

Mid Wynd Intnl.

Pre-tax revenue of the Mid Wynd International Investment Trust improved from £156,670 to £160,112 for the year to end-June 1983 and with earnings up from 1.95p to 2.46p per 25p share the total dividend is being lifted slightly above the forecast of at least 1.7p to 1.8p by a final of 1p.

The company paid 4.01p the previous year but that included dividends of 2.71p paid prior to introduction.

Asset value per ordinary share was given as 119.6p (65.3p).

Minet headway

Turnover of Minet Holdings, Lloyd's and general insurance broker, advanced from £11.89m to £13.68m in the first quarter of 1983 and pre-tax profits pushed ahead from £2.78m to £3.52m.

Mitchell Somers

Despite a sharp fall of £1m in pre-tax profits to £1.23m, for the year to April 2 1983, Mitchell Somers is maintaining its dividend at 3.25p net per 10p share with a same-again final of 1.75p. Earnings per share fell by 3.8p to 6p.

Turnover of this engineer and forgemaster slipped from £38.2m to £32.73m, while trading profits dropped by £1.1m to £1.72m. Interest took £489,000 (£590,000) and tax £279,000 (£695,000). There was also an extraordinary debit of £339,000 this time, being redundancy and reorganisation costs and reductions in valuation of properties no longer being used.

Net asset value per share was unchanged at 99p.

M.K. Electric

Pre-tax profits of MK Electric Group rose to £13.3m for the year to March 26 last, an improvement of 55 per cent over the £8.6m returned the previous year, and the dividend total is being effectively increased by 1p to 8p net per 25p share by a bigger final of 5.25p.

Turnover for 1982-83 expanded by 26 per cent to £103.6m—the group manufactures electric plugs and sockets.

Interest charges for the year decreased from £1.3m to 0.6m but tax rose to £5.6m (£3.3m).

Earnings per share came through at 22.7p (16.5p restated).

A. Monk

Civil engineer and building contractor A. Monk and Co. returned profits of £3.6m pre-tax for the year to February 28 1983, an improvement of £605,000 over the previous year's figure, and the dividend total is being stepped up from 3.5p to 6p net by an increased final of 4.5p (2.5p).

The profit included £1.33m (£834,000) interest received. Turnover rose by £1.8m to £82m.

Earnings per 25p share emerged at 26.4p (23.5p) after tax of £668,000 (£332,000) and minorities of £87,000 (£128,000). They excluded an exceptional release of provision for tax on Nigerian debts no longer required.

Moorgate Invst. Trust

An increase of £43,000 to £628,000 in pre-tax profits is reported by Moorgate Investment Trust for the year to May 31. The final dividend is raised from 5.45p to 6.05p net for a total up from 8.05p to 8.8p.

Franked income rose from £527,000 to £579,000, but there was a £4,000 fall to £110,000 in unfranked income. Gross revenue was £689,000 compared with £641,000. Administration expenses were £48,000 (£43,000). interest charges were unchanged at £13,000 and tax rose from £188,000 to £194,000, leaving attributable revenue of £434,000 (£397,000).

Stated earnings per 25p share improved from 8.52p to 9.32p, and net asset value per share was up from 178.3p to 234.2p.

Moorgate Mercantile

Following the £32,000 shortfall at midway, Moorgate Mercantile Holdings picked up in the second six months to finish the year to March 31, 1983, with pre-tax profits ahead from £451,000 to £518,000.

The dividend total is stepped up by 0.1p to 1.1p net with a higher final of 0.8p (0.7p) per share. Earnings per 10p share were up from 1.81p to 2.26p before extraordinary debits of £49,000 (£2,000).

Turnover advanced from £9.36m to £16.23m.

Moorside Trust

Revenue of the Moorside Trust expanded from £260,197 to £319,862 in the half year to June 30 1983 after tax of £204,201, compared with £156,172. Gross revenue advanced from £507,096 to £602,665.

The net interim dividend is held at 1p per 25p share—a final of 2.5p was paid previously. Half-yearly earnings amounted to 1.62p (1.31p) per share.

At June 30 1983 net asset value per share stood at 102.4p (75.5p at end-June 1982 and 84.1p at December 31 1982). Capital emplyole totalled e,q,.... Capital employed totalled £20.66m (£15.46m).

Morland Secs.

For the year ended March 31 1983 taxable profits of Morland Securities, property developer, rose from £44,000 to £59,000 while the dividend is unchanged at 2p net per 5p share.

Tax charge of this USM concern was doubled at £32,000 (£16,000) giving earnings per share of 2.02p, against 3.66p.

Robert Moss

For the year ended March 31 1983 taxable profits of plastic injection mouldings manufacturer Robert Moss improved from £632,000 to £715,000 and the dividend is lifted from 1.8p to 2p net per 10p share with a final distri-

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bution of 1.34p.

Profits at halfway stood at £325,000 (£302,000).

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, expanded from £3.71m to £6.77m for the year.

Pre-tax figure for the 12 months was after interest charges, much higher at £172,000, compared with £63,000. Tax charge took £148,000 (£153,000) and earnings per share are shown as just ahead at 4.88p (4.73p).

Mount Charlotte

Pre-tax profits of **Mount Charlotte Investments**, the hotel group with catering interests, rose sharply from £350,000 to *£1.4m for the 28 weeks* ended July 10 1983 on turnover £3.92m ahead at £11.52m.

The profits from the operations of the four London Hotels acquired in February, the Park Court, Whites, the Kingsley and the Posthouse Bayswater, now known as the Hospitality Inn, are included in the results.

Omitting their results, trading profits for the remainder of the group's busines showed an increase of 48.6 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1982.

During the current year additional management contracts have been negotiated in respect of the Carlton Hotel, Great Yarmouth, and the Royal Cambridge Hotel, Cambridge, and additional sales and marketing contracts have been negotiated in respect of the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, the Bedford Swan Hotey, Bedford, the Marks Tey Hotel, Colchester, and the Rutland Arms Hotel, Newmarket.

Group pre-tax profits for the year to end-December 1982 totalled £1.21m. A single dividend of 0.89p net was paid per 10p share.

Mountleigh ahead

Property investment and development concern **Mountleigh Group** announces profits ahead from £647,000 to £811,000 for the year ended April 30 1983. The dividend is raised to 5.5p (4p) on capital increased by a rights issue, with a final of 4.5p as forecast. Also proposed is a one-for-five scrip issue.

Earnings are shown at 15.08p (13.82p) and assets at 340p (172.05p) per share.

Mountview Estates

Pre-tax profits at **Mountview Estates**, the property dealing and investment company, improved from £2.79m to £3.4m in the year to March 31 1983.

Turnover rose from £4.11m to £5.24m, and group trading profits were up from £2.84m to £3.46m, which were before interest received of £5,340 (£11,174). Interest charges amounted to £71,221 compared with £65,932.

After tax of £1.77m (£1.45m), net profits emerged at £1.63m against £1.33m. The total dividend is increased from 3.2p to 3.7p net with a final up from 2.5p to 3p. Dividends absorb £185,000 (£160,000).

Stated earnings per 5p share improved from 26.69p to 32.62p.

Muirhead

First half pre-tax profits at **Muirhead** *fell from £759,000 to* £605,000, but group sales for the six months to March 26, 1983 moved ahead from £15.1m to £16.25m.

The pre-tax figure for the first half was after interest charges down from £490,000 to £453,000 and debenture interest of £34,000 (£27,000). Tax took £136,000 this time, and there were minorities of *£40,000 (£34,000).*

The interim dividend is held at 2p net—last year's total was 4p from pre-tax profits of £1.22m (£882,000).

Muirhead manufactures electromechanical devices and communications equipment.

Multitone Elect.

As predicted at the halfway stage at **Multitone Electronics** pre-tax profits for the year to the end of March 1983 fell short of those for the previous year, with the taxable surplus lower at £1.31m against £1.75m.

Turnover of this radio paging and internal communications systems concern expanded from £16.55m to £17.67m.

The net final dividend of 1.52p raises the total from 1.88p to 2.52p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as slipping from 12.6p to 8.4p.

Munford & White

As forecast in the prospectus **Munford and White** is paying a dividend of 1p for the year to March 31 1983.

Turnover amounted to £2.11m (£1.45m) and pre-tax profit totalled £452,000 (£318,000) after cost of sales and expenses £1.66m (£1.13m). Earnings per share were 8.4p (6.5p).

If the results had related to a year during the whole of which the shares had been publicly held, net dividends totalling 2.6p per ordinary share would have been recommended.

Munton Brothers

Taxable profits of **Munton Brothers** improved from £432,000 to £615,000 for the year ended April 30 1983 and in view of this and having regard to the present level of trading an increased final dividend of 1.5p (not less than 1p had been forecast) raises the net total by 0.5p to 3p.

Turnover for the past year totalled £11.69m (£10.64m). Earnings per share amounted to 4.51p (2.97p).

Murray Northern

After interest costs of £1.03m, against £174,823, administration expenses of £127,196, compared with £82,716, and tax, £13,710 higher at £431,499, revenue of the **Murray Northern Investment Trust** emerged £44,244 lower at £540,236.

However, a final dividend of 1.4p (1.35p) lifts the net total from 1.95p to 2p per 25p ordinary share. A same-again interim payment of 0.6p is also recommended for the current year. B ordinary shareholders will receive a capitalisation issue in B ordinary shares equivalent in net asset value to the recommended final dividend and the interim dividend for the current year.

Net asset value per share rose from 104.3p to 141.7p, an increase of 35.9 per cent.

Gross revenue for the year expanded from £1.26m to £2.13m.

Murray Technology

Pre-tax revenue of **Murray Technology Investments** increased to £221,566 for the year to March 31, 1983, compared with £190,778 *for the previous* 13½ months period. Total revenue advanced from £366,066 to £451,551.

After tax of £84,958 (£80,305) earnings per 25p share moved up from 1.1p to 1.16p. The dividend for the year is 0.75p (same) net.

N

Nash Industries

An improvement from £6,000 to £181,000 on the engineering side of its business helped push pre-tax profits of **Nash Industries** ahead from £179,000 to £256,000 for the six months to March 31 1983.

Turnover of the company—other activities of which include packaging and construction—rose from £5.73m to £6.87m and *trading profits improved from* £263,000 to £382,000.

The net interim dividend is being held at 1.5p on earnings of 4.5p (3.6p) per share and the directors are forecasting a full year profit increase over last year's £414,000—on which a total dividend of 4p was paid.

NatWest rises

In the first half of 1983, pre-tax profits of **National Westminster Bank** rose from £214m to £230m. The result was struck after an increase from £78m to £135m in the provision for bad and doubtful debts.

The increased provision reflected the company's experience through difficult trading conditions. Of the charge, £101m (£68m) related to specific provision and £34m (£10m) to general. The cumulative provision of £583m, of which £201m is general provision, represents 1.4 per cent of customers' and other accounts.

With the tax charge up from a restated £18m to £51m, earnings per £1 share dropped from an adjusted 82p to 74p. The interim dividend, however, is improved to 11.4p (10.6p) net—last year's total was 29p on taxable profits of £439m.

There was a reduced contribution to pre-interest profits of 35 per cent (53 per cent) from domestic banking. This reflected the adverse impact of provisions and a continued trend towards wholesale funding.

International banking achieved a strong performance of 50 per cent (34 per cent) against difficult conditions at home and abroad. Related banking services raised their contribution to 15 per cent (13 per cent) with higher profits overall.

Lord Boardman, the chairman of National Westminster Bank — first-half taxable *profits were up £16m*

Neepsend

For the year to March 31 1983 **Neepsend**, with interests in engineering, metal production and processing, returned higher pre-tax losses of £817,000, compared with the previous year's £637,000, although the deficit for the second six months was reduced from last time's £302,000 to £197,000.

The closures and disposals reported at the interim stage have largely been completed and the continuing companies showed trading profits of £750,000 for the year.

Loss per 25p share for 1982-83 emerged at 5.6p (3.68p). The dividend is held at a nominal *0.1p net.*

Neil & Spencer

Measures taken to improve **Neil and Spencer Holdings'** performance are proving their worth, says Mr Stephen Proctor, the chairman, and the group has swung back with profits of £121,000 for the six months to May 31 1983. In the corresponding period last year, there was a loss of £606,000, which included an exceptional debit of £18,000.

Turnover of this manufacturer of laundry, dry cleaning and solvent cleansing equipment, air controlled systems and specialist electrical equipment, was down slightly from £13.75m to £13.1m.

The pre-tax figure was after interest charges down from £553,000 to £337,000. There is a provision of £106,000 for tax, which is the anticipated liability for overseas tax.

After minorities of £22,000 there was a deficit for ordinary capital of £7,000 (£598,000), but there was an extraordinary credit this time of £33,000.

Nesco Investments

For the year ended March 31 1983 **Nesco Investments** returned profits of £17,376 pre-tax, compared with a loss the previous year of £236,637, the results again being affected by the costs and terminal losses of closing or selling motor trade locations during the period.

In order to strengthen the cash position in the UK and so enable the group to take a longer term view on property disposals the directors propose to raise approximately £640,000 net by way of a rights issue on a two-for-five basis at 80p a share.

The issue has been underwritten by brokers Seligmann, Rayner & Co.

Turnover for 1982-83 totalled £8.71m (£13.51m). Tax accounted for £347,982 (£276,221), leaving a net loss of £330,606 (£512,858) before extraordinary debits of £150,000 (£204,340). Loss per share amounted to 15.89p (24.65p).

New Court

Pre-tax profits at **New Court** *Natural Resources fell from* £1.37m to £1.29m in the year to March 31, 1983. Turnover rose from £2.03m to £2.7m. The dividend is raised from 1p to 1.2p net.

The pre-tax figure was after depreciation up from £481,000 to £499,000, but included exchange gains of £287,000 compared with £218,000 and interest net income *of £649,000 (£608,000).* Tax was little changed at £470,000 (£476,000), and there was an extraordinary credit of £33,000 (£62,000). Stated earnings per share fell from 3.07p to 2.47p.

New Tokyo Inv.

Pre-tax profits at **New Tokyo Investment Trust** have risen from £16,475 to £28,669 for the *six months to the end of September*, 1983. Gross income expanded from £78,769 to £129,929.

Net asset value per 50p share moved ahead from 108.5p to 223.9p or from 107.8p to 213.1p adjusted for full exercise of warrant rights.

Tax moved up from £10,494 to £15,578. Earnings per 50p share were shown as rising from 0.06p *to 0.13p.*

Nimslo Intl.

NIMSLO INTERNATIONAL, the Atlanta-based maker of cameras which take three-dimensional photographs, has disclosed a maiden full-year pre-tax loss of $12.13m (£7.6m) for 1982.

Mr Graham Dowson, the company's deputy chairman, blamed the losses on problems in Dundee where, he said, production of the cameras by Timex was substantially below targets.

Losses per share in 1982 amounted to 12.94 cents. No dividends are proposed. The company's shares tumbled 9p to end the day at 76p on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday. They had reached *275p last October,* 11 months after their launch.

Nolton in profit

A swing round from a loss of £120,000 to a pre-tax profit of £225,000 is reported by **Nolton**, investment holding company, for the year ended April 30, 1983. At the interim stage, the company announced a profit of *£148,842 (£75,246 loss).*

A final dividend of 0.4p makes of 1p per share (nil). Earnings a total net payment for the year per 25p share came out at 3.74p (3.36p loss).

Turnover slipped from £5.97m to £5.74m. Tax was higher at £68,500 (£21,000) but extraordinary debits—arising from disposal and rationalisation of subsidiaries *in previous years*—decreased from £114,000 to £43,000.

Norcros

With a sharp improvement by the ceramics division more than offsetting a downturn by the international side pre-tax profits of industrial group **Norcros** *moved ahead from £25.11m to* £28.34m for the year to end-March 1983.

The dividend is being increased from 5.88p to 6.32p by a final of 4.24p (3.92p)—earnings per share totalled 15.97p (14.6p).

Group sales advanced from £332.33m to £355.52m and

The chairman sees no reason why the group should not move *forward in 1983/84.*

Norfolk Capital

For the half-year to March 31 1983 losses of **Norfolk Capital Group**, hotelier, were little changed at £345,000 pre-tax, compared with the £359,000 reported for the same period last year and there is again no interim dividend—a final of 0.2p was paid previously.

Loss per 5p share for the first half emerged at 1.82p (1.89p).

Northern Foods

Including a first-time contribution from Keystone, acquired in May last year, pre-tax profits of **Northern Foods** improved by 15 per cent to £23.7m *for the six months ended March 31 1983.*

Most of the improvement was in the UK resulting largely from recent heavy capital investment, especially in Pork Farms.

The net interim dividend is being stepped up from 2p to 2.25p per 25p share. The directors intend to change the accounting year-end to March 31 and say the current period will *be extended to cover the 18* months to end-March, 1984.

A second set of interim figures, covering the period to September 30 1983 will be presented to facilitate comparison of performance and a second interim dividend will be paid in February next year so that the pattern of dividend distribution will be maintained.

Turnover for 1982-83 rose from £409.9m to £634.1m. Pre-tax figures included earnings from investments £2m (£2.8m) and a £1.5m (£1m) share of associates profits. Interest charges took £6.5m (£5.4m).

Tax accounted for £5.2m (£4.8m). Earnings per share totalled 8.89p (8.13p).

Northern Secs.

A decrease in pre-tax profits from £409,000 to £310,000 has been shown by **Northern Securities Trust** for the year to the end of March 1983. Total income slipped from £762,000 to £670,000.

The final net dividend has been cut to 3p, but the total is maintained at 5p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as falling *from 6.37p to 5.12p.*

Net asset value moved up from 285p to 416p.

Pre-tax profits were struck after debenture stock interests amounted to £14,000 (same). Interest on bank loans increased from £216,000 to £235,000. Management expenses fell from £123,000 to £111,000. Tax came to £120,000 (£174,000).

Nottingham Brick

Substantially improved trading conditions and better weather have helped **Nottingham Brick** expand pre-tax profits considerably from £31,526 to £358,991. The net interim dividend has been doubled to 4p net, partly to reduce disparity, and the directors are optimistic as to the outcome of the current year.

Turnover moved ahead sharply from £1.88m to £3.29m. At the trading level profits increased from £127,232 to £424,199. Interest charges took £65,208 (£95,706). There was a tax charge this time of £186,675. Earnings per 50p share were shown as rising from 1.3p to 7.27p.

Nottingham Mnfg.

Taxable profits of the **Nottingham Manufacturing Co**, rose from £6.17m to £6.85m in the first half of 1983 and sales were ahead from £85.39m to £90.49m.

At the trading level, profits improved to £3.9m (£3.61m) before including investment income of £2.96m (£2.56m). The after-tax balance was £4.8m (£4.32m) and earnings per 25p share came out at 6.01p (5.53p).

The net interim dividend is up from 1.2p to 1.35p—last year's final was 3.9p.

Nova Knit

A reduction in pre-tax profits from £703,000 to £429,000 is *reported by* **Nova** *(Jersey)* **Knit** for the year to March 31 1983 on lower turnover of £8.07m, against £9.15m. First-half profits were down from £330,000 to £250,000.

Although the interim dividend was maintained, the final is being cut from 3p to 1.5p net for a lower total payment of 4p, against 5.5p. Earnings per 20p share dropped from 24.2p to *12.4p, after tax of £52,000* (£23,000 credit).

Extraordinary debits soared from £21,000 to £1.26m. These comprised knitting reorganisation £892,000; provision for dyeing and finishing reorganisation £300,000; German litigation £54,000 and other £17,000 (£21,000).

O

Oakwood plunges

For the half year ended March 31 1983 taxable profits of engineer, sanitaryware distributor, **Oakwood Group**, dropped from £243,000 to £98,000, but the *interim dividend is maintained* at 2p net per 25p share—last year's final was 4.5p and profits amounted to £568,000 pre-tax.

Turnover for the six months rose slightly from £5.54m to £5.67m and profits were subject to tax of £12,000 against £104,000. After minorities, last time, and extraordinary items, the available balance came *through at £88,000, down from* £142,000.

Earnings per share are shown as 4.3p (6.4p) and net tangible assets at 167p (152p).

Ocean Wilsons

Turnover of **Ocean Wilsons** *(Holdings)* expanded from £46.9m to £55.27m for the 1982 year and at the pre-tax level profits totalled £3.84m, compared with 1981's £3.09m.

Earnings per 20p share emerged at 7.83p (4.82p) but the dividend is held at 2.95p by a same-again final of 2.2p.

In view of the accumulated losses of the Wilcom S.A. group of associated companies and the difficult trading conditions in which they operate the directors have decided to write the investment in the group down to a nominal amount by a transfer from capital reserves of £1.96m.

As a result losses sustained by this group in respect of 1982 have been excluded from the p and l account.

Oceonics

On turnover of £31.08m, compared with £21.23m, **Oceonics** pushed its pre-tax profits up by £1.07m to £5.4m for the year to end-March 1983. Earnings per 10p share improved from an adjusted 15.29p to 19.78p and a dividend of 1.5p net, as forecast, is being paid.

Comparative figures have been restated. The group's shares are *traded on the Unlisted Securities* Market.

Oil and Assocd.

For the year to March 31 1983, pre-tax revenue of **Oil and Associated Investment Trust** showed an improvement from £610,000 to £704,000.

Tax took £249,000 (£220,000) for earnings of 4.55p (3.89p) per 25p share and the total dividend is lifted from 3.85p to 4.375p with a final payment of 3.15p net.

At the year end the net asset value per share stood at 112.1p (95p).

P

Pactrol

In the 15 months to March 31, 1983, **Pactrol Electronics** increased pre-tax profits by 73 per cent to £461,000, compared with £266,000 for the previous year. Turnover for the period was 67 per cent higher at £1.94m, against £1.16m.

After tax of £201,000 (£97,000) and an extraordinary credit of *£2,000, profit for the 15 months* came out at £262,000 (£169,000 for year). Stated earnings per 25p share improved from 11.27p to 16.76p, while a final dividend of 3p net is recommended making a total of 4.5p, as against 3.5p forecast at the time of the reorganisation.

During the period there was a major reorganisation of the group—formerly Manchester & Metropolitan Investment Trust. This involved the acquisition of Pactrol Controls, the disposal of two subsidiaries and a rights issue. The activity of an investment trust was discontinued.

The principal activities of the group are now the manufacture and sale of electronic controls for energy conservation and similar applications.

Panther Securities

Pre-tax profits on ordinary activities at **Panther Securities**, property investment, improved from £90,539 to £99,405 in 1982. Turnover was down from £521,717 to £489,485, with rental income increasing its contribution from £251,196 to £309,380.

The cost of sales fell from £264,065 to £196,024, and operating expenses were also lower at £74,920 compared with £82,275. Interest charges rose from £84,838 to £119,136 and this included interest receivable of £5,315 (£3,769).

The year's tax increased from £12,448 to £23,535, leaving attributable profits at £122,940 *(£102,987). There is a return to* dividends with a payment of 5p net. Stated earnings per 25p share rose from 25.2p to 30.2p, and net assets attributable to ordinary shareholders was 356p (225p).

The board proposes to increase the authorised share capital from £300,000 to £1m and to make a capital distribution of two ordinary shares for each one currently in issue.

P. Panto

Despite turnover up from £27.02m to £29.52m, **P. Panto** incurred heavier pre-tax losses —up from £147,000 to £241,000 —in the year to December 24, 1982. There was a trading profit of £246,000 against £326,000. No dividend is again payable.

Property income was £3,000 higher at £22,000 and there was a loan interest credit of £10,000 (£9,000). Director's remuneration totalled £141,000 (£129,000) and there was a bank interest debit of £221,000 against £219,000. Depreciation was up from £137,000 to £142,000. No tax was payable (£1,000 credit), and an extraordinary credit provided £28,000 (£342,000).

Panto is a wholesale tobacconist, confectioner, grocer and sundriesman.

Parkdale Holdings

An increase from £132,722 to £155,168 in pre-tax profits is reported by **Parkdale Holdings**, the property investment and financial services group, for the year to April 30 1983. The dividend is doubled from 0.4p to 0.8p net. Group turnover was higher at £875,842 compared with £655,160.

Tax for the year was up from £50,635 to £70,178. Attributable profits were £84,990 (£27,424, which included extraordinary *debits of £54,663).*

Stated earnings per 10p share improved from 1.53p to 1.59p.

J. T. Parrish

Pre-tax losses of £24,000 against profits of £42,000, have been incurred by **J. T. Parrish**, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne departmental store and property development company, for the 52 weeks to January 29 1983.

No dividend is being paid against 4p in the previous year.

Turnover was almost static at £4.03m against £4.01m. There was a tax credit of £18,000 (£6,000 charge). There was a loss per 25p share of 0.9p compared with earnings of 5p.

Paterson Jenks

Improved pre-tax profits of £1.82m against £1.41m are reported by **Paterson Jenks** for the year to March 26 1983. Turnover of this maker of chicory and coffee essence and food products rose from £29.25m to £33.43m.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 1.705p to 2.1p which raises the total from 2.33p to 2.8p. Basic earnings per 25p share are shown as rising from 9.03p to 12.3p — fully diluted they moved up from 7p to 9.19p.

The company is in "excellent health," say the directors. There has been a net cash inflow of £1.24m for the year.

Dividends totalling £99,000 have been waived by certain directors and shareholders.

Pauls & Whites

A final dividend of 5.5p by **Pauls and Whites** lifts the total to 8p for the year ended March 31 1983, against 7.5p. Group turnover increased from £271m to £304.95m and profit before tax from £10.76m to £11.64m—animal feed, other products for agriculture and milling £5.14m (£4.97m); malt, other brewing materials and flour milling £4.39m (£4.18m); flavours and essences £804,000 (£589,000); share of related companies £1.3m (£1.03m).

Net profit attributable came to £10.01m (£8.46m) after tax £1.59m (£2.27m) and debenture redemption £40,000 (same). Earnings 36.05p (30.69p) per share.

Pegler-Hattersley

Pre-tax profits of **Pegler-Hattersley**, with interests in domestic plumbing and heating fittings, industrial valves and general products, totalled £17.76m for the 53 weeks ended April 2 1983, compared with £16.17m for the previous *52 weeks.*

The dividend is being stepped up from 10.75p to 11.85p net per 25p share by an increased final of 7.85p—earnings per share emerged at 33.6p, against 32.9p.

Sales expanded from £120.17m to £149.16m and trading profits came through £3.06m ahead at £10.53m.

Tax took more at £7.51m (£6.01m) and after minorities last time of £101,000 profits at the attributable level amounted to £10.25m (£10.06m).

Petbow Holdings

For the year to March 31, 1983 **Petbow Holdings**, manufacturer of generating and welding sets, incurred a pre-tax loss of £524,000 and the dividend is being omitted.

The group recovered from a midyear loss of £71,000 to profits of £175,000 for the 1981/82 year and a dividend of 1p net.

Turnover for the past year was little changed at £25.29m (£25.95m). The loss, struck after interest charges of £789,000 (£590,000), took in an exceptional gain of £103,000. Loss per 10p share emerged at 5.4p (0.17p earnings).

Phillips Patents

A slight fall in pre-tax profits from £137,637 to £131,589 is reported by **Phillips Patents (Holdings)** for the year to February 26, 1983, although this represents an improvement on the half-time position, when a loss of £22,383, against a £6,624 profit, was recorded.

With stated earnings per 25p share maintained at 3p, the dividend for the year is being raised from 1p to 1.25p.

Turnover advanced from £4.38m to £5.34m. Tax took £22,403 (£14,857) and last time there was also an extraordinary debit of £10,000.

P.H. Industrials

For the 12 months ended April 30, 1983 **P. H. Industrials**, joinery manufacturer and shopfitter, returned profits of £306,478 pre-tax on turnover of £1.72m. The figures compare respectively with £318,121 and £1.57m which covered a 16-month period.

A final dividend of 3.5p, as forecast, makes a total of 5p net —3.5p was paid for the 16 months.

The capital expenditure programme referred to midyear has been completed and the group has a secure base for expansion. *Earnings for the year emerged at 12.2p (11.2p) per 25p share* after tax of £69,056 (£99,714).

Phoenix Timber

In the year ended March 31 1983 **Phoenix Timber** cut its loss from £1.16m to £995,000 and in the first four months of the current year has returned to profits with £200,000 after interest charges and all other items. Sales in that period rose by some 28 per cent. The directors are confident that the trading recovery will continue and that a satisfactory profit will be earned over the year.

In addition, closure and reorganisation costs of £512,000 have been written off as extraordinary items. The balance sheet reflects the full effect of the losses. Shareholders' funds at March 31 were 187p per share.

Piccadilly Theatre

Heavier pre-tax losses—£36,561 against £19,655—are reported by **Piccadilly Theatre** for the six months to March 31, 1983. Turnover of this company—its ultimate holding company is Associated Newspapers Group—fell from £106,861 to £78,108.

There were tax credits of £18,262 (£9,136), and the loss per 25p share was 2p against 1.2p.

The directors say conditions for London's West End theatres continue to be difficult.

Pict Petroleum

Pre-tax losses of oil and gas exploration and development *group,* **Pict Petroleum**, *were* virtually unchanged at £114,538 for the six months to April 30 1983 against £114,393 last time.

The result was struck after a share of associate's losses of £12,000 (£1,000 profits) and exploration expenditure reduced from £177,114 to £159,831. There is no tax this time, against a £520 charge before, but an unrealised currency loss of £39,346 (nil) increased the net deficit to £153,884 (£114,913).

At the trading level, the company made a slightly reduced profit of £57,293, compared with £61,721. The surplus included £34,678 (£26,200) from sales of oil and gas, but lower deposit interest of £175,171, compared with £290,982.

Pilkington Bros.

Despite a £62.7m rise in turnover to £1.02bn, taxable profits of **Pilkington Brothers** slipped from £53.4m to £49.9m in the year to March 31 1983.

The year's dividend is being *maintained at 10.5p net per £1* share with a same again second interim of 5.5p. Earnings per share before extraordinary items are given as 2.4p (losses 3.8p).

The directors say they expect an improving trend seen in the UK in the last quarter to continue in the current year, but there will *still* be redundancy and pension make-up costs to be borne. Overseas results should be satisfactory, but are affected by some reduction of profit from South Africa, Argentina and Germany, they add.

The taxable profits included overseas profits of £65.4m (£68m), licencing income of £28m (£39.4m) and associate profits of £4.2m (£6.3m), but were struck after interest less investment income of £23.3m (£19m) and redundancy and related costs of £12.3m (£21.3m).

Tax took £41m (£49.9m) and after minorities of £4.8m (£9.8m) and extraordinary debits of £2.6m (credits £17m) the attributable profits emerged at £1.5m (£10.7m).

Pitman

After interest of £1.15m, against £1.77m, and associate losses of £414,000 (nil) pre-tax profits of **Pitman**, publisher, printer and college proprietor, emerged at £446,000 for the year to March 31 1983, compared with a loss of £38,000 for the year 1981-82.

There is again no ordinary dividend—the company passed its preference *dividend due on* January 31 to preserve resources. Its 50p shares are not listed. Turnover was little changed at £31.78m (£31.24m).

Plastic Constn.

Trading profits at **Plastic Construction** rose from £69,295 to £88,366 in the six months to March 31, 1983. Turnover was also higher at £5.19m compared with £4.64m. No tax was payable.

The dividend is unchanged at 0.836p, and absorbs £27,650 (£27,232). There were waivers totalling £11,861 (£12,279). Earnings per 10p share improved from 1.47p to 1.87p.

Plaxtons GB

Scarborough-based coachbuilder, **Plaxtons (GB)** increased pre-tax profits from £351,000 to £479,000 in the 26 weeks to April 3, 1983, although interest received declined from £285,000 to £98,000.

The rise in profits resulted mainly from higher activity. Lower interest receipts were caused by more utilisation of group resources to finance the increased activity, and by lower interest rates prevailing.

The outlook for the group is for an improvement from the first to the second half and also for the year as a whole compared with the previous 12 months. Interest receipts will be higher than in the first half.

Midway turnover rose by £2.71m to £14.36m. After tax of £187,000 (£100,000) earnings per 25p share improved from 4.2p to 4.9p. The net interim dividend is repeated at 3p—last year's total was 8.5p.

Plysu growth

Mainly as a result of greater efficiency and relatively stable materials prices, **Plysu** has pushed up its turnover from £16.97m to £20.06m and its profit before tax from £2.06m to £2.65m in the year ended March 31 1983. The dividend is effectively increased from 2.1p to 2.5p net with a final of 1.75p. The directors are to make a further *one-for-10 scrip issue* and hold *the 2.5p dividend* rate on the new capital.

The group makes plastic containers and domestic wares.

P'mouth & Sunderland

A reduction in pre-tax profits from £851,000 to £833,000 has been shown by **Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers** for the 13 weeks to July 2 1983. Turnover moved ahead from £7.36m against £7.96m.

Earnings per 25p share were shown as rising from 5p to 6.3p.

Pre-tax profits included income from investments of £13,000 (£12,000) and interest on short-term deposits of £81,000 (£128,000).

Tax amounted to £68,000 (£155,000) and there was an *extraordinary credit last time of* £19,000.

Powell Duffryn

A modest increase from £12.5m to £12.9m in pre-tax profits is reported by **Powell Duffryn** for the year to March 31, 1983. Turnover of this group, which has interests in engineering, shipping, bulk liquid storage, fuel *distribution* and construction services, rose from £586.58m to £595.8m.

Tax for the year was up from £2.5m to *£4.07m*. Extraordinary debits took £3.12m (£488,000), leaving attributable profits of £5.7m (£9.46m).

As already announced, the final dividend is unchanged at 9.55p for a same-again total of 14.25p. Stated earnings per 50p share were down from 31.8p to 28.2p.

Continued on next page

Building societies confident of holding interest rates this year

BY MARGARET HUGHES

Short of U.S. interest rates going mad, British building societies are fairly confident that they will not have to increase their rates this year.

This week's rise in the U.S. *prime* rate and its possible implications for the UK minimum lending rate is causing some concern to building societies. If the minimum lending rate were to be substantially increased then the societies might be forced to raise their rates to maintain the improved inflow of funds achieved by the recent increase, which would also bring a further rise in mortgage rates.

But it is hoped that the July increase should be sufficient to avoid a further rise this year.

Building societies are pleased with the results of the July increase in rates. Although official figures for July will not be available until next week the Building Societies Association (BSA) says that preliminary figures indicate that net receipts from savers totalled between £550 and £600 in July, almost twice the level of the May and June intakes.

On June 22 the BSA announced new recommended interest rates. These increased the rate paid on ordinary share accounts by 1 per cent to 7.25 per cent (10.36 per cent gross equivalent) while the rate to borrowers was increased by a larger than expected 1.25 per cent, bringing the mortgage rate up to 11.25 per cent.

This was the first increase in rates since October 1981 when the mortgage rate was increased by two percentage points to 15 per cent and the investment rate was raised by 1.25 per cent to 9.75 per cent.

Despite the fact that base rates were coming down at the time (June) the societies were forced to put up their rates because they were simply not pulling in the funds to meet the peak mortgage demand, and hadn't been since the beginning of the year.

This was partly because they had held their rates at the level set in November, when they expected rates to continue falling, while market rates in fact increased. The building societies cut their investment rate by 1 per cent in November and their mortgage rate by two per cent only to see bank rates rise to 11 per cent at the beginning of this year.

At these rates they were no longer attractive to investors with the result that net receipts hit a low of £319m in May and a similar level in June before the rate rise. This compares with net receipts of £886m in October and £763m in November.

This was compounded by the fact that mortgage demand was at peak levels, estimated at £2bn a month against about just over half that level six months previously. *This was partially due to* the general pick up in economic activity but more markedly because of the virtual withdrawal of the banks from the mortgage business—at one stage last year banks were providing at least a third of new mortgages.

With the withdrawal of the banks from the market, which began last summer but accelerated in the early months of this year, mortgage queues returned. For a while the societies dipped into their liquidity reserves to meet the demand but ultimately were forced to increase their rates.

Although the societies claim that the higher investment rate has had the desired effect of virtually doubling the intake of funds they are also increasingly turning to other "non-traditional sources."

Since the last Finance Act which allowed them to pay interest gross they have been able to issue certificates of deposit (CDs).

In June, CDs plus other wholesale market sources such as negotiable bonds and syndicated loans brought *in* a further £262m. A similar amount is anticipated in July.

Together with mortgage capital repayments of around £700m this should provide a total of around £1.5bn for mortgage lending. The societies estimate their current lending levels at between £1bn and £1.5bn.

From October 1 the societies will also have access to another source of wholesale funds-time deposits. Last month, in a written answer to a parliamentary question Mr John Moore, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, revealed that the next Finance Bill would permit the societies to pay interest gross on time deposits and that this legislation would be effective from October 1 1983.

It is anticipated that the smaller societies will make use of this vehicle since it is non-marketable and therefore in the case of such less well known names more attractive to the investing institutions.

As a relatively new source of financing the building societies recourse to the wholesale market is at present limited by the prudential recommendation of the chief registrar of friendly societies that they should not normally hold more than 5 per cent of their assets in wholesale funds.

Although this limitation may be eased in time as the societies become more experienced in the market they are in the meantime seeking to make their more traditional sources more attractive. *The five biggest societies—Halifax*, Abbey National, Nationwide, Leeds Permanent and Woolwich —have agreed to issue two-year term shares paying a rate of interest which will be guaranteed to be 1½ per cent above the return on the ordinary share account.

The first issue, which will be launched on September 1 will pay 9 per cent net of the standard tax rate which is equivalent to 12.86 per cent. The decision to introduce these high interest products is not unconnected with the fact that a new national savings issue—the 26th —goes on sale on August 15 which pays 8.25 per cent free of tax, worth 11.79 per cent to the standard rate taxpayer.

The two-year term shares will be available for a limited period only—three to six months.

The aim is to raise £1bn over the next few months to eliminate the mortgage backlog. The societies hope that by the end of the year the mortgage queues currently running at between four and 12 weeks will have disappeared with mortgage sup*ply and funds* available in equilibrium—provided that is that "interest rates to not go mad."

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

P

Continued

F. Pratt

Pre-tax losses of the F. Pratt Engineering Corporation were reduced from £873,000 to £47,000 for the first six months of 1983.

Turnover for the first half totalled £3.61m (£7.29m, including £2.77m from business sold)—pre-tax deficit for the comparable period included losses of £631,000 from business sold. There is again no interim dividend. The final was also omitted last year.

Alfred Preedy

Considerably reduced profits before tax have been shown by Alfred Preedy and Sons for the year to March 26 1983 with the surplus down from £930,000 to £482,000. Turnover of this wholesale and retail tobacconist expanded from £85.86m to £97.18m.

The final net dividend has been held at 2.75p which maintains the total at 3.5p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as slipping from 8.48p to 3.83p.

Operating profits fell from £1.43m to £1.17m. Interest payments were ahead from £754,000 to £833,000.

Premier Cons. Oil

Increased oil and gas production, together with favourable exchange rate fluctuations, contributed to an increase from £3.69m to £4.15m in pre-tax profits at Premier Consolidated Oilfields in the year to March 31 1983. Total revenues improved from £5.2m to £7.5m, with the contribution from the sale of oil and gas increasing from £3.02m to £4.26m.

Dividend and interest income was £1.49m (£1.74m), there were associates profits of £66,000 (£32,000 losses), miscellaneous income was higher at £288,000 (£34,000), and there was a profit of £919,000 (£25,000) on the sale of fixed assets.

After tax up from £1.08m to £1.53m, net profit came out at £2.62m (£2.61m).

No dividend is proposed as the company continues the policy of reinvesting earnings in further exploration. A one-for-10 scrip issue is planned. Stated earnings per 10p share were down from 2.5p to 2.3p.

Benjamin Priest

For the year to April 1 1983, Benjamin Priest Group turned in a pre-tax loss of £647,000, as against a £26,000 profit before, while turnover slipped from £41.43m to £41.02m.

The dividend is being cut from 1p to 0.1p net and the directors say the policy will be reviewed as soon as trading performance improves. Loss per 25p share was 3.84p (0.14p) on a net basis and 3.8p (0.68p earnings) on a nil distribution basis.

The cost of redundancies made or provided for during the year and charged before arriving at trading profits was £207,000 (£220,000). Redundancy costs arising directly from the drop forgings reorganisation have been treated separately as part of an extraordinary debit of £1.12m (nil).

Priest Marians

Priest Marians Holdings, giftware importer, turned in a pre-tax loss of £27,000 for the 10 months accounting period to the end of February, 1983, against a £37,000 deficit for the previous 12 months.

There was again no tax and after extraordinary credits of £11,000 (£45,000), the attributable loss came out at £15,000 (£8,000 profit). Loss per £1 share decreased from 27.12p to 20.12p.

The extraordinary items comprised:— written off subsidiaries nil (£26,000); additional closure costs £6,000 (same); ACT not presently recoverable nil (£1,000); investment provision released £17,000 (£14,000); deferred tax release nil (£64,000).

Prop. & Reversionary

After a fall in second half-taxable profits from £1.43m to £823,000, Property & Reversionary Investment declined from £2.33m to £2.09m in the year to March 31 1983. Net rental income for the 12 months however edged ahead to £2.58m, compared with £2.41m.

The year's dividend of this property investor and developer is being lifted from 3.3p to 3.5p net per 25p share with a higher final of 2.5p, against 2.3p. Earnings per share are given higher at 5.8p (4.6p) and the net asset value at 247p (243p).

The tax charge was reduced from £1.14m to £429,000 by capital allowances, leaving higher net profits of £1.66m (£1.19m). Minority interests came to £82,000 (£110,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £101,000 (£340,000 credits).

Property Hldg. Inv.

Pre-tax revenue at Property Holding Investment Trust improved from £3.42m to £5.05m in the year to March 31 1983. Gross property income rose from £5.7m to £6.24m. Property outgoings totalled £1.52m against £1.45m and after recovery this time of exceptional repairs amounting to £725,000, net property income was £5.44m compared with £4.24m. Other income was £1.67m against £1.04m.

Net asset value per share improved from 246p to 270p, and the final dividend is raised from 2.15p to 2.52p for a total of 4p (3.5p).

Property Partners.

For the year ended March 31 1983 pre-tax profit of Property Partnerships rose from £711,000 to £850,000, and a final dividend of 3.5p raises the total to 6.25p (5.6p). Tax takes £453,000 (£377,000) and £85,000 (£60,000) is transferred to assets replacement reserve. Earnings are shown at 11.2p (9.4p) and the net asset value is 379p before capital gains liability of 76p.

Investment properties have been valued by Mr P. R. King, a chartered surveyor and director of the company, at £10.81m on March 31 1983 (£10.0..m in 1982). Hotel properties are included at their March 1981 independent valuation plus subsequent costs less depreciation.

R

Racal Electronics

After rising from £38.44m to £46.98m at halfway, Racal Electronics, electronic products manufacturer, finished the year to March 31 1983 ahead at £114.27m, compared with a previous £102.62m.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 26.57p against 26.16p and the dividend is stepped up to 5.5055p (5.005p) net with a final payment of 4.114p. Also proposed is a one-for-one scrip issue.

Pre-tax figure was after interest payable, less receivable, of £6.53m (£11.78m). Tax charge took £42.97m (£32.37m), minority interests £310,000 (£422,000) leaving the attributable balance at £70.99m (£69.72m).

Radiant Metal

With profits falling from £122,105 to £22,743 in the year ended February 28 1983 Radiant Metal Finishing is halving its dividend to 1p net per share.

Turnover fell from £812,819 to £668,960 and there was a trading loss of £41,567 (profit £21,091). The profit was subject to tax of £9,994 (£36,958).

Raeburn Trust

In the half-year ended May 31 1983 Raeburn Investment Trust has increased its gross revenue from £1.74m to £2.1m and its net revenue from £992,000 to £1.08m, after tax of £670,000 (£608,000).

Earnings are shown at 3.77p (3.56p). The interim dividend is lifted from 3p to 3.25p and the directors expect to at least maintain the final at 4.9p. Assuming full conversion of loan stock, the net asset value per share was 320.9p (227.6p).

Rank Organisation

First-half taxable profits for 1983 of leisure group and consumer and industrial products maker and supplier Rank Organisation slipped marginally from £36.6m to £36.3m on turnover which edged ahead by £3.2m to £265.2m.

The interim dividend is being cut from 4.8p to 4p net per 25p share — for last year a total of 8p was paid. Earnings per share for the 28 weeks are given as 7.4p (7.7p).

Trading profits moved ahead to £12.5m (£11.4m) and associates contributed £37.6m (£42.1m) including £34.4m (£38.4m) from Rank Xerox. Intereset charges were down at £13.6m (£16.9m) and tax took £20m (£18.4m).

The figures exclude Butlins, Leisure Holdings and Rank Travel. The directors say that extraordinary items for the full year are currently estimated at a deficit of £6m.

Wm. Ransom

A final dividend of 5p by William Ransom and Son, manufacturing chemist, maintains the total at 6.5p net for the year ended March 31, 1983. Earnings were 11.92p (16.9p).

Turnover came to £3.33m (£3.45m) and the profit to £272,000 compared with £404,000, subject to profit share allocation £6,500 (£10,000) and tax £86,000 (£140,000).

Ratners (Jewellers)

A 14 per cent rise in second-half taxable profits from last time's £657,000 to £750,000 was not enough to make up for first-half losses and Ratners (Jewellers) ended the year to April 6 1983 with losses of £350,000 compared with profits of £891,000.

However, with losses per 10p share given as 1.46p (earnings 1.93p), before extraordinary items, the final dividend is being maintained at 1.63p net making a same again total of 2.3p.

In the year under review tax took £83,000 (£317,000) and there was an extraordinary credit of £108,000 (£512,000) from profits on the sale of property.

Readicut Intl.

Some improvement was achieved by Readicut International in the second half, and that had the effect of pulling back the loss to £1.39m for the year ended March 31 1983 after being £1.89m at halfway. In handicrafts the year saw a turnround from a profit of £0.5m to a loss of £1.69m.

The dividend for 1982-83 is held at 0.1p net per share. For the previous year the group made a profit of £230,000, turning round from a loss of £595,000 in the first half.

Rediffusion

Sharply higher interest charges of £3.64m, against £962,000, left pre-tax profits of Rediffusion, at £23.49m for the year to March 31, 1983 little changed on the previous year's £23.48m.

The figures were also after providing for depreciation of £38.29m (£32.29m) and taking in a share of associates profits of £5.25m (£4.68m). Earnings per share rose to 18.5p (13.3p). The recommendation is to the final dividend has been deferred.

British Electric Traction, which in May bid for the balance of shares it did not already own, has received acceptances which have increased its beneficial stake in Rediffusion to 97.9 per cent.

Redland gains

For the year ended March 26 1983 Redland has pushed up its profit from £59.8m to £66.3m, representing a rise of 10.9 per cent on sales 13 per cent higher at £1.06bn. The dividend is stepped up to 8.08p (7.34p), with a final of 5.14p.

The profit included £14.3m (£12.9m) share of associates, principally overseas. After tax £26.2m (£24.6m), minorities £5m (£4.8m) and extraordinary charges £900,000 (£2.6m), the net available balance was £34.2m (£28m). Earnings are shown at 17.5p (15.7p) per share.

Reed Intl.

Although the second half showed a recovery for Reed International it was not sufficient to offset the midway decline, and for the year ended April 3, 1983, the group profit before tax fell from £71.6m to £60.9m. This was after charging £14.6m, compared with £19.5m, for exceptional items.

Earnings per ordinary share are shown to have declined from 47.3p to 33.5p, but the dividend is held at 14p, with an unchanged final of 10p.

Turnover rose from £1.69bn to £1.8bn. Trading profit, including associates, fell by £5.7m to £78.4m, with the UK contributing £56.7m (£44.4m) and overseas £21.7m (£39.7m). Publishing operations increased their contributions to over 60 per cent.

Regalian Props.

Against not less than £495,000 forecast, Regalian Properties has turned in profits of £533,396 for the year ended March 31, 1983. This is an improvement of £206,610 over 1981-82. In view of this increase, which the board is confident will be achieved in the future, the dividend is being raised from 1p to 1.25p net. Earnings are shown at 8.36p (5.95p).

Regional Props.

The dividend of Regional Properties, property investment and development concern, is lifted from 2.5p to 3p per 25p share with a second interim of 2.1p, and pre-tax profits moved ahead to £2.41m for the year ended March 31 1983, against a previous £1.91m.

Rents and other income, less expenses, amounted to £2.66m (£2.43m) and interest payable was £248,000 (£523,000).

After tax of £875,000 (£1.07m) earnings per share are shown as 8.11p (4.46p) basic and 6.84p (4.83p) fully diluted.

Remploy sales rise

An increase of 18 per cent in sales for the year to March 31, 1983, is reported by Remploy, Britain's largest employer of severely disabled people. Unaudited sales for the 14 operating divisions of the company reached a record total of £49.35m, says the directors.

Remploy, with 8,750 severely disabled employees, has 94 production units throughout Britain, offering its customers a range of over 100 products and services, and these include protective clothing and fashion knitwear, commercial and domestic contract furniture, medical equipment, cartons and boxes, and horticultural produce.

Renold's £3.89m loss

Pre-tax losses at Renold increased from £1.77m to £3.89m in the year to April 3, 1983, and turnover of this manufacturer of power transmission products and machinery fell from £122.25m to £120.17m.

The directors say that as a result of the rationalisation, there is a substantial deficit in distributable reserves which preclude the payment of an ordinary dividend last year a single payment of 2p was made. No preference dividend is being paid.

The group had trading profits of £2.3m against £4.63m and this comprised UK losses of £1.02m (£648,000) and overseas profits of £3.32m (£5.27m). Trading profits were after depreciation little changed at £3.69m (£3.64m). Interest charges were slightly lower at £6.19m (£6.4m). Tax was lower at £1.04m (£1.41m).

Extraordinary charges soared from £881,000 to £19.5m, and these represent write-offs and costs under the re-organisation plans. The loss per £1 share was 12.4p (8.1p).

Renwick Group

Following second half losses of £540,000 at Renwick Group pre-tax profits for the year to April 2, 1983 ended at £228,000, although this compares with previous losses of £106,000. Turnover of this travel agent and fuel distributor amounted to £75.34m against £75.52m.

Earnings per 25p share of this company which is ultimately held by Kangra Holdings (Pty) of South Africa, amounted to 1.8p compared with previous losses of 1.1p.

There were extraordinary debits this time of £360,000 against credits of £450,000.

Rexmore steady

On turnover up from £31.01m to £31.26m, pre-tax income at Rexmore was £15,000 higher at £561,000. This included associates protis down from £69,000 to £44,000, but that was after a loss on discontinued operations last time of £28,000 and interest charges down from £808,000 to £657,000. Rexmore is a supplier and distributor of fabrics.

The final dividend is raised from 0.525p to 0.775p net for a total up from 1.05p to 1.3p.

Tax for the year to April 1, 1983 was £146,000 compared with £197,000. Minorities took £7,000 (£5,000) and here was an extraordinary debit of £122,000 (£39,000), which included £42,000 acquisition costs of a foreign subsidiary, since sold to Berisfords.

Stated earnings per 25p share were 2.86p (2.46p).

RFD Group

Pre-tax profits of the RFD Group rose from £1.04m to £2.04m for the year to March 31 1983 and with earnings per share improving by 4.73p to 10.76p the dividend is being increased from 2.8p to 3.08p net by a final of 2.24p (2p).

Turnover for the period reached £34.08m (£27.21m) and at the trading level profits totalled £2.33m (£1.54m)—the group manufactures safety and survival products, defence equipment, specialist textiles and cable components.

Rightwise ahead

Rightwise, plantation holding company, increased pre-tax profits from £270,000 to £355,000 for 1982, on turnover up from £2.07m to £2.38m.

Earnings per 10p share rose to 16.7p (9.1p) or to 13.4p (8.1p) fully diluted. The dividend for the year is 1p (same) net, being the interim in lieu of final, announced in March.

Tax charge was £123,000 (£110,000) and there was a minority credit of £7,000 (£30,000 debit). An extraordinary credit in 1981 added £5,000.

RIT and Northern

Taxable profits of RIT and Northern jumped to £14.92m for the 16 months to March 31 1983, compared with £4.97m for the previous 12 months. The results comprise Great Northern Investment Trust for 16 months and RIT for 12 months from April 1 1982.

The net dividend for the period is 8.8p (6.6p for year), with a final of 4.6p. Earnings per 25p share were 10.8p (6.4p) basic or 10.6p fully diluted.

Pre-tax profits comprised investment holding £9.14m (£4.95m), investment dealing underwriting and jobbing £3.2m (£25,000) and equipment leasing and other financial services £2.59m (nil).

Tax took £5.7m (£1.81m) and after minorities this time of £227,000, attributable revenue came out at £8.84m (£3.11m).

Net asset value—pre-conversion and before exercise of warrants and options—was 245p at the end of March 1983. As at July 13, unaudited net asset value was 258p pre-conversion and 251p post-conversion.

Combined results for the 12 months to March 31 1983 showed pre-tax profits of £13.43m and attributable earnings of £7.99m. Earnings per share were 8.6p basic or 8.4p fully diluted.

River and Mercantile

Gross revenue of River and Mercantile Trust was ahead at £1.76m, against £1.54m, in the first half of 1983, while the pre-tax figure came through up from £1.36m to £1.54m.

After tax of £534,227 (£427,747) earnings per 25p share rose from an adjusted 1.89p to 2.03p. The net interim dividend is effectively improved to 1.4p (adjusted 1.325p)—last year's total was equivalent to 4.125p.

River Plate & Gen.

Net revenue of the River Plate and General Investment Trust increased from £416,444 to £460,191 for the first half of 1983, while gross revenue improved to £798,739, against £730,065.

Tax took £234,032 (£212,196) and earnings per 25p share rose from 2.63p to 2.9p. The net interim dividend is maintained at 1.4p— last year's final was 4.6p.

Net asset value per share advanced from 145.8p to 208.4p.

Romney Trust

Pre-tax revenue of the Romney Trust advanced from £972,000 to £1.16m for the half year to June 30 1983 after interest and expenses of £500,000 (£276,000) but before tax of £490,000 (£379,000).

Earnings per 25p share emerged at 2.29p (2.02p) and to reduce disparity, the net interim dividend is being increased from 1.3p to 1.5p. Net asset value per share, assuming full loan conversion, amounted to 265.4p (164.5p).

Rotaprint

A return to profits before tax of £401,000 compared with a loss of £919,000 has been shown by Rotaprint for the year to April 2, 1983. Sales of this printing equipment manufacturer rose 13 per cent from £12.56m to £14.16m, including a rise in UK sales from £9.67m to £11.48m.

A nominal dividend of 0.1p net (same) has been declared. Basic earnings per 5p share are shown as 2.09p (losses 18.45p).

The attributable balance emerged with a surplus of £205,000 (deficit £1.13m).

Rothmans Intnl.

With a sharply higher contribution coming from its brewing activities pre-tax profits of Rothmans International advanced from £105.2m to £140.5m during the year to March 31, 1983. Sales revenue totalled £3.41bn, compared with £2.77bn.

The dividends on the ordinary and B ordinary shares are being lifted by 0.9p to 5.3p by a final of 4p (3.25p).

Pre-tax results included a £35.2m (£24.1m) share of associates' profits and were struck after allowing for net interest expense of £10m (£13.9m) and convertible bonds interest of £14.8m (£12.7m).

Routledge & Kegan

In the 12 months to March 3, 1983, Routledge and Kegan Paul, book publisher, turned in a pre-tax loss of £58,000, as against a profit of £142,000 previously. There is no dividend for the year compared with payments totalling 3p before.

Turnover increased from £4.76m to £5.3m. The loss was struck after a finance charge of £126,000 (£102,000) but before tax of £1,000 (£17,000 credit) and minorities of £7,000 (£21,000).

Loss per 25p share came out at 5.9p (13.7p earnings).

Rowlinson Secs.

Pre-tax profits of Rowlinson Securities Group advanced from £702,494 to £720,002 for the year to March 31 1983 and the dividend total is being increased from 0.606p to 0.65p net per 10p share by a final of 0.46875p.

Turnover totalled £9.05m (£8.23m)—the group's interests are in building and civil engineering contracting and property development.

Tax took £56,200 (added £39,223) leaving net profits of £663,802 (£741,657) and earnings per share of 5.31p (5.94p.)

Rowton Hotels

A reduction in pre-tax profits from £668,776 to £412,213 is reported by Rowton Hotels for 1982, although turnover rose slightly from £5.84m to £6.11m. The directors say the recession has affected hotel occupancy but there are signs of a resurgence with resultant hopes for the future.

After tax of £175,288 (£253,442) earnings per 25p share fell from 10.78p to 6.07p. The final dividend is maintained at 3.85p net for a same-again total of 7p.

G. Ruddle

For the year ended March 31 1983 Rutland-based brewer G. Ruddle & Company returned pre-tax profits of £705,087, compared with £832,822 the previous year, but as forecast, the dividend is being increased from 1.5926p to 3.3p net per 10p share by a final of 2.2p.

Turnover for 1982/83 rose from £7.01m to £7.45m. Pre-tax profits included other income of £53,383 (£5,000) and was after allowing for interest charges down from £45,684 to £8,352.

Tax jumped to £240,496 (£15,165) but extraordinary credits added £11,320 (nil) to leave the attributable surplus at £475,911 (£817,657).

Earnings per share dropped from 19.3p to 10p—the company's shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Alexander Russell

Taxable profits of fuel and building supplies distributor Alexander Russell moved ahead from £1.42m to £1.82m in the year to March 31 1983, on higher turnover of £23.73m compared with £19.11m.

Earnings per 10p share are given as rising from 11.31p to 14.64p and the final dividend is being lifted to 1.2p net (0.96p), making a raised total of 1.85p (1.5p). A one-for-one scrip is also proposed.

Tax took £195,000 (£171,000) leaving attributable profits of £1.57m (£1.21m).

S

Saatchi & Saatchi

The start of the 1982-83 financial year has seen the most "dramatic growth" in Saatchi & Saatchi's history. In the six months ended March 31, 1983 this advertising agency has produced a pre-tax profit of £4.83m, against £2.37m in the corresponding period. Earnings are up from 8.62p to 10.42p and the interim dividend is lifted from the equivalent of 2.33p to 2.82p.

St. Andrew Trust

After tax of £240,658, against £220,558, revenue of St. Andrew Trust increased from £379,533 to £390,948, for the half year ended June 30 1983.

H. Samuel

H. Samuel, the retail jeweller, finished the year to January 29 1983 with pre-tax profits of £3.26m, compared with £5.34m, following a swing of £2.46m to losses of £1.69m after six months.

The dividend total is held at 6.25p net per 25p share by a same-again final of 4.75p.

S. & U. Stores

On higher turnover of £27.8m, compared with £25.43m, S. & U. Stores, retail credit company, pushed pre-tax profits up from £670,000 to £767,000 for the year to end-March 1983.

The result was after interest charges of £336,000, against £374,000. Tax took £258,000 (£23,000) — last year there was a £96,000 net loss on the sale of a subsidiary and properties. Earnings per 12½p share for 1982-1983 amounted to 4.04p (5.15p). No dividends are again declared on the ordinary or preferred ordinary shares.

Sangers recovers

Sangers returned to profits in the second half of the year ended February 28 1983, but still finished in the red, albeit at just £9,000 against last year's £2.94m. Turnover was well down at £41.17m, against £120.56m.

There is again no dividend and directors explain that although a profit was generated in the second six months, "we still have a long way to go before the accumulated losses have been eliminated." They add that only when this has been done can the payment of any dividend be considered.

Scan Data Intnl.

Interim pre-tax profits of Scan Data International improved from £78,934 to £173,992. Turnover for the period, to May 31 1983, totalled £2.96m, compared with £1.94m—the company's shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Scapa Group

Pre-tax profits of Scapa Group increased by 15 per cent from £13.95m to £15.66m for the year ended March 31, 1983, while sales rose by 10 per cent to £110.99m, against £100.1m.

Scotcros improves

A substantial improvement by the overseas division helped lift pre-tax profits of Scotcros to £715,000 for the 12 months ended March 31 1983. This compares with £200,000 the previous year and a record £2.12m for 1979-80.

Sales expanded from £39.21m to £46.44m with the overseas contribution sharply ahead at £17.32m (£11.17m). A divisional breakdown of trading profits (£1.92m, against £965,000) shows: food £1.16m (£1.21m), packaging £764,000 loss (£323,000 loss), engineering £106,000 loss (£269,000 loss) and overseas £1.35m (£352,000). Also included was a £282,000 profit from the disposal of surplus assets.

Scott & Robertson

A return to profits has been made by Scott and Robertson, which has diversified interests in the packaging field and jute and polypropylene interests. For the year ended February 25 1983 group turnover fell to £17.54m (£20.46m) and there was a profit of £92,000, against a loss of £109,000. The dividend is held at 0.75p net per share.

Scottish Nat. Trust

Revenue of the Scottish National Trust, investment trust, came out just ahead at £1.16m for the six months ended March 31 1983, compared with £1.13m last time, after tax of £597,933 against £585,746.

After preference payments of £31,500 (same) earnings amounted to £1.13m (£1.1m) or 1.79p (1.73p) per 25p share.

S. and N. Breweries

An increase from £32.2m to £41.1m in pre-tax profits, after financial expenses, is reported by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries for the year to May 1 1983. Operating profits were up from £47.8m to £52m, and of this total the contribution from wholesale beer, managed public houses and tenancies was up from £41.6m to £48.7m. The share from hotels was lower at £2.9m against £3.2m, and wines and spirits, retail off licences and all exports also fell from £1.4m to £300,000.

Scott's Restaurant

After rising from £12,247 to £76,257 at halfway, taxable profits of Scott's Restaurant finished 1982 well ahead at £171,997, compared with £25,964. Turnover increased from £2.84m to £2.9m.

Profits included associate's share of £18,271 (£7,386) and were subject to tax of £12,122 (£513). Earnings per share are shown as 32p (5.09p) and the dividend is lifted from 2p to 3p net.

Scruttons

A 14 per cent increase from an adjusted £929,000 to £1.06m in pre-tax profits is reported by Scruttons, whose shares are traded on the market formed by Granville and Co.

Turnover of this group, which owns and operates container and unit-load terminals in Britain, rose by 22 per cent from £12.19m to £14.92m.

Security Centres

Pre-tax profits at Security Centres Holdings almost doubled from £700,000 to £1.34m in the year to March 31, 1983. The final dividend is raised from 0.9p to 1.1p on the increased capital for a total up from 1.5p to 1.85p. Turnover improved substantially from £3.36m to £6.51m. Earnings per 10p share rose from 7.7p to 10.2p.

SelecTV

Turnover of SelecTV rose from £51,552 to £222,771 for the year to March 31, 1983 but at the pre-tax level the group incurred a loss of £458,216, compared with £308,137 previously.

The directors said opportunities "were great," the group was excellently placed to benefit from the expansion of pay cable television and that the future would be "exciting and rewarding."

The group's 10p shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

SGB setback

In the six months to end of March 1983, pre-tax profits at SGB Group, the industrial holding company, fell from £5.17m to £2.69m. The interim dividend is held at 2.3p net—last year's total was 5.6p from pre-tax profits of £11.38m.

First half turnover rose from £71.19m to £78.8m. The pre-tax figure was struck after interest charges up from £1.7m to £2.03m, but includes interest and dividends receivable of £376,000 against £601,000. Tax was down from £2.66m to £1.45m, and minorities took £163,000 (£115,000). Stated earnings per 25p share were down from 6.3p to 3.4p basic, and from 6.2p to 3.3p fully diluted.

Shaw Carpets

Progress at Shaw Carpets was maintained through the second six months which enabled the group to return pre-tax profits of £962,000 for the full year to April 29, 1983, compared with the previous year's deficit of £2.26m.

Turnover for the past year amounted to £36.5m (£33.45m) and trading profits totalled £1.95m (£512,000 loss). Depreciation was little changed at £748,000 (£788,000) but interest took more at £238,000 (£158,000) —last year there were also redundancy and severence costs of £802,000.

Earnings per share emerged at 2.6p (9.7p loss) after tax of £376,000 (£649,000 credit).

Sidlaw Group

A sharp increase in pre-tax profits from £1.74m to £2.42m has been shown by Sidlaw Group for the half year to April 1 1983. The net interim dividend has been doubled to 5p and a maintained 9.5p final is forecast. The directors predict that the profit before tax for the second half will exceed the level of the first half.

600 Group

Pre-tax profits of the 600 Group, which has interests in machine tool manufacture and engineering products and services, fell from £4.66m to £3.29m for the year to end-March 1983, despite taking in a property sale profit of £4.01m, compared with just £206,000 previously.

Group turnover fell from £143.64m to £132.67m and at the trading level a deficit of £1.76m was incurred, against a previous surplus of £3.14m.

Sheffield Brick

Resulting at Sheffield Brick for 1982 reflect the caution expressed in both the interim statement and the letter to shareholders earlier this year, and emphasise the need for the extra capital that was raised, say the directors.

Pre-tax losses for the year increased from £163,000 to £518,000 after interest charges little changed at £120,000 (£125,000) and exceptional debits of £72,000 compared with £37,000. There were extraordinary credits of £49,000 (debits £27,000).

Siebe Gorman

An improvement in pre-tax profits from £4.04m to £6.19m has been shown by Siebe Gorman Holdings. Turnover of this protective and safety clothing group expanded from £52.25m to £86.9m.

The final dividend has been lifted from 5.33p net to 5.75p, which raises the total from 7.74p to 8.5p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as rising from 23.8p to 28.6p.

After tax of £2.81m against £1.57m, attributable profits emerged lower from £2.17m to £1.22m. This was after extraordinary debits of £1.98m this time against £295,000 previously and minorities.

Silverthorne Group

Pre-tax profits of £125,000 has been shown by Silverthorne Group for the 26 weeks to July 2, 1983 against £168,000 for the previous 40 weeks. Turnover of this maker of consumer goods chain saws and garden machinery which is a subsidary of Eastern Produce (Holdings), fell from £2.84m to £1.83m.

Singlo higher

Taxable profits of Singlo Group advanced from £1.18m to £1.51m in the 53 weeks to April 2, 1983 and a further improvement is anticipated in the current year.

Turnover increased from £54.19m and trading profits were ahead at £1.93m (£1.56m)—split between discount food retailing £1.57m (£1.43m); tea £257,000 (£83,000) and other UK activities £104,000 (£49,000).

Sketchley

A significant first-time contribution from its wholly-owned U.S. garment and rental hire subsidiaries enabled Sketchley the industrial work-wear dry-cleaning group, to push its pre-tax profits up to a record £9.12m for the 52 weeks ended April 1 1983, an improvement of 25 per cent over the £7.28m achieved for the previous 53 weeks.

Earnings per 25p share came through at 27.1p (26.8p) on a published basis and at 24.1p (22.1p) on a full tax charge basis—adjustments have been made to take account of last June's rights issue.

Slaters Food

In line with the prospectus forecast of not less than £600,000, profits of Slaters Food Products came out at £621,000 for the 53 weeks to April 1, 1983, before an exceptional debit of £34,000. Turnover of the company—whose shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market—amounted to £9.97m.

J. Smart

Highly competitive conditions are reflected in the results forecast by J. Smart and Co. (Contractors) for the year to the end of July 1983. For the current year group profits before tax will be not less than £810,000 compared with a previous figure of £1.47m.

The predictions accompany the declaration of an interim dividend of 1.1p net, which is the same as last year, when a final of 2.85p was also paid. The directors say that the final dividend for the current year will be held at that level.

Turnover of this building and public works contractor is running a little below the level of last year's £12.63m, say the directors. They also point out that pre-tax profits will be made up as to trading profit of £682,000 (£1.39m) and profit on the sale of investments of £123,000 (£84,736).

Smith Bros.

The first-half recovery at Smith Bros., stock jobber, continued through the second six months and enabled the group to return record pre-tax prots of £3.48m for the full year to April 22 1983—a loss of £28,000 was incurred for the 1981-82 year.

As indicated at the time of the rights issue last May a final dividend of 2p (0.5p) restores the net total to 3p (1p) net per 25p share on the enlarged share capital.

Tax for the past year took £1.84m (added £23,000), after which earnings per share emerged at 18.8p (0.1p loss).

David S. Smith

Following an industrial dispute and production problems at David S. Smith (Holdings) pre-tax profits dived from £942,236 to £120,523 for the year to April 30 1983, and the final dividend has been cut from 4.5p to 1p net, which the directors say will be paid from accumulated reserves. The total for the year is 3.5p (7.0p).

Second half losses came to £89,000 (profits £510,000).

Tax amounted to £35,325 (£452,841) and after extraordinary debits of £125,488 last time, attributable profits emerged down from £363,927 to £84,898. Dividends total £189,414 (£378,828). Earnings per 20p share fell from 9p to 1.6p.

Sogomana Group

Natural rubber, oil palm and cocoa producer Sogomana Group slipped from taxable profits of £728,000 to £705,000 in 1982 on turnover of £1.33m, compared with £1.37m.

The year's dividend is being cut from 35p net to 20p with a final of 7p (same) and special payment of 10p (25p). Earnings per 10p share are given as 9.03p (2.29p) on a net basis and 13.87p (13.84p) on a nil distribution basis.

Somic in loss

Following a sharp downturn to losses at midway at Somic the attributable balance for the year to the end of March 1983 showed a deficit of £4,113 compared with a previous surplus of £22,280. Turnover of this kraft paper spinner and weaver was the same-again at £2.69m.

The dividend for the year has been cut from 1p to 0.5p. Losses per 25p share are given as 0.206p before extraordinary items and 0.625p after (earnings 1.114p).

Tax amounted to £15,178 (£23,542).

Wm. Sommerville

A sharp increase in pre-tax profits from £24,522 to £281,322 has been shown by William Sommerville for the year to the end of May 1983. Turnover of this Midlothian-based paper maker expanded from £4.42m against £5.04m.

The final net dividend has been lifted from 1p to 3.95p, making 4.5p against 1.55p previously. Earnings per 25p share are shown as rising steeply from 5.85p to 37.65p.

There was a tax charge of £37,853 against previous credits of £15,436.

Sotheby's cuts losses

Losses, down from £1.51m to £651,000 are reported by Sotheby Parke Bernet Group, fine art auctioneer, for the six months to February 28, 1983. No interim dividend is being paid—a payment of 0.1p was made last time. Gross revenue was down from £27.85m to £22.96m. Net auction sales, inclusive of buyers premium, were down from £143.25m to £108.42m.

The pre-tax loss was after operating expenses of £24.39m (£29.1[illegible]m) and interest payable of £755,000 (£1.04m), but including exchange gains of £830,000 (£186,000 losses) and interest receivable of £706,000 (£1.13m). There was a tax charge of £107,000 (£700,000 credit), and an extraordinary credit this time of £41,000. The loss per 25p share was 7.75p (8.2p).

Southend Stadium

For 1982 profit of Southend Stadium was up from £122,000 to £126,000, subject to tax £61,000 (£56,000). Dividend is 0.5p (0.47p).

Planning permission has been granted for a d-i-y store to occupy the site of the existing East stand.

Speyhawk upsurge

Pre-tax profits of Speyhawk, property development and construction group, jumped from £44,000 to £674,000 for the six months ended March 31 1983, on turnover of £4.48m, against £3.9m.

Earnings per 10p share are shown as 3.7p (3.55p) after tax of £300,000 (£89,000) but the interim dividend is unchanged at 2p net—last year's final was 5p and taxable profits amounted to £2.86m.

Spring Grove

A sharp fall in pre-tax profits is reported by Spring Grove, the service management and development company, for the 26 weeks to April 1, 1983. The figures were down from £1.29m tto just £59,000, and operating profits also fell from £1.58m to £828,000.

Turnover advanced, however, from £11.61m to £15.34m. The interim dividend is being omitted—last time the payout was 1.5p, followed with a final of 2.5p.

Interest charges were considerably higher at £769,000 compared with £291,000. Tax was down from £285,000 to £16,000, but there were extraordinary debits of £711,000 (£134,000), leaving an attributable loss of £868,000 against profits of £870,000.

Stated earnings per 10p share were 0.1p (4p).

Standard Fireworks

Pre-tax profits at Standard Fireworks rose from £895,959 to £1.01m in the year to March 31, 1983. The dividend is effectively raised from an adjusted 5p to 6.75p net. A one-for-two scrip issue is proposed.

Group trading profits were up from £780,637 to £880,242, and after-tax profits advanced from £529,504 to £559,907.

Standard Securities

Profit before tax at Standard Securities, property investment and trading company, rose from £147,000 to £572,000 in the half year to March 31, 1983. There is an interim dividend of 1p net —last year's single final payout was 0.19p.

Net rental income fell slightly from £832,000 to £813,000, and net trading income was lower at £336,000 against £412,000. Other operating income was £3,000 compared with £47,000. Tax for the six months was up from £39,000 to £205,000. Stated earnings per 25p share improved from 1.07p to 3.19p.

STC well ahead

Pre-tax income of Standard Telephones and Cables jumped to £42.4m in the 25 weeks to June 26 1983, compared with £26.4m for the corresponding 24 weeks last year. Turnover also rose sharply with an increase to £406.2m, against £270m.

Staveley Industries

In the year to April 2 1983 taxable profits of industrial holding company Staveley Industries fell from 7.05m to £4.29m on slightly higher turnover of £156.75m, compared with £152.6m.

Continued on next page

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

Banks on the road to higher profits

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IN NORMAL times a statement of optimism from the chairman of a bank which had just announced a 68 per cent rise in bad debt provisions might be regarded as curious. But these are not normal times and thus it was possible for Mr Timothy Bevan, Barclays chairman, to express "moderate optimism" about international debt problems, even though his bank's bad debt provisions for the first six months of 1983 were up from £115m to £193m year-on-year.

The key in Barclays' case, as with other clearers, was that the bad debt provisions appeared to be levelling off from the second half of last year despite the year-on-year jump.

This year's batch of interim results from the Big Four clearers suggests an impressive underlying profitability in areas such as fee and commission income and foreign exchange dealings. For "fee and commission" income, however, one might simply substitute "higher bank charges for the customers." *This was how the banks helped* to mitigate the squeeze on interest margins in the UK during the first half, by profiting from higher customer charges and from rescheduling fees internationally.

THE BIG FOUR CLEARERS: INTERIM RESULTS*

	PRE-TAX PROFITS			BAD DEBT PROVISIONS		
	Interim 1983 £m	Interim 1982 £m	Full Year 1982 £m	Interim 1983 £m	Interim 1982 £m	Full Year 1982 £m
Lloyds	193.7	202.8	315.9	119.8	62.1	218.9
Barclays	262	236	495.2	193	115	318.3
Midland	136.4	95.1	251.4	118.6	75.3	196.1
NatWest	230	214	439	135	78	229

* Interim results are for the six months to June 30.

With the exception of Midland Bank which held its current account deposit base steady at 30 per cent of total funds, the banks have been relying increasingly on wholesale money market funds, a costly proposition. This stems from competition from building societies and others and means banks can rely to a lesser extent on their non-interest-bearing current accounts

National Westminster Bank appears to have improved on the international side, which supplied half of interim profits. But this seems largely to have resulted from cost-cutting and a sharp recovery in the bank's North American operations.

At home, domestic Nat West profits slipped to 35 per cent of the total pre-tax income and provisions *in the UK were up.* The bank is also funding more of its business from wholesale money markets than a year ago.

Barclays Bank, which said its £193m of bad debt provisions was 40 per cent domestic and 60 per cent international, also managed an improvement on the international front. A major factor in this was a move into the black in the States, where bad energy loans and other problems lost the bank £35m last year.

Loan demand from British industry, particularly the manufacturing sector, was not picking up for most of the banks during the first half. Mr Philip Wilkinson, Nat West's chief executive said there were "considerable question marks" about the speed of the UK economic recovery.

The only Big Four clearer to report a drop in profits was Lloyds Bank, down to £193.7m from £202.8m a year ago. Lloyds has the heaviest involvement in Latin America and also has a few rather awkward property *problems in its Hong Kong* business.

The real difficulties at Lloyds, however, stemmed from domestic operations. Domestic bank profits were down by 20 per cent, a result of greater reliance on wholesale money, higher staff costs and higher UK bad debt provisions.

Midland stood apart from the others, providing the first genuine signs of recovery for this, the traditionally least profitable of the Big Four clearers. Midland appears to be making real progress in cost containment, particularly on the staff cost front.

The Midland 43 per cent leap in pre-tax interim profits helped the bank to finally roll out its long-awaited rights issue, a £156m cash call which will help the group's capital base.

Britain's Big Four clearers are certainly on the road to higher profits, although few senior bankers would admit to great optimism about the world economy. Mr Bevan's "optimism" was not backed up by any substantive logic and he was not prepared to discuss how the worst debtor countries will earn the foreign exchange needed to stay solvent.

Stockbrokers' estimates of full year profits suggest a Midland leap to more than £300m pre-tax in 1983, Lloyds up above £400m, NatWest to around £500m and Barclays at £550m, still below its 1981 and 1982 pre-tax. But as the analysts point out, this is only August and the events of the past year suggest that anything can happen—and occasionally does.

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Continued

With earnings per £1 share stated at 21.8p (33.2p) on a net basis and 27.4p (39.5p) on a nil basis, the final dividend is being held at 8.5p net making a same-again total of 13p.

Tax took £11,969 (£7,807) and there were extraordinary credits of £3.28m (£3.83m).

Stavert Zigomala

Group after-tax profits of Stavert Zigomala, furniture wholesaler and investment company, increased from £23,380 to £29,157 for the year to March 31 1983. The net dividend is being raised from 6.3p to 6.72p per 20p share.

Tax took £11,969 (£7,807) and depreciation and amounts written off amounted to £8,059 (£2,000).

Stead & Simpson

Footwear retailer and motor trader Stead & Simpson showed an increase in pre-tax profits from £2.2m to £2.44m for the 52 weeks to the end of March 1983, compared with the previous 53 week period. Turnover improved from £40.82m to £46.19m.

The net final dividend has been lifted from 2.85p to 3.25p which increases the total from 3.85p to 4.25p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as 5.01p (4.58p) after tax.

Turnover for the first ten weeks of the current year has risen 9.3 per cent in footwear and 3.6 per cent in motor trading say the directors. The increase in footwear business leads them to be optimistic for the current year's profit.

Steinberg Group

A sharp increase in pre-tax profits, a one-for-three rights issue to raise £4.1m before expenses and the acquisition of the minority shareholding in Agentborder have been announced by Steinberg Group, ladies' clothing and handbag maker, for the year to March 26 1983.

Including a four months' contribution from Agentborder, in which Steinberg acquired a 75 per cent interest last December, pre-tax profits rose from £217,929 to £1.33m on turnover of £31.72m against £27.42m.

A final dividend of 1p has been recommended against 0.02p last time—both final payments amounted to the total for both years. Earnings per 10p share are shown as rising from 2.73p to 8.92p.

The rights issue will consist of 4,349,966 new ordinary shares of 10p each at 95p per share which will be allotted as to one-for-three ordinary shares already held. The new shares will qualify for the final dividend for the year under review. Dealings in the new shares are expected to begin on August 16 1983.

Stirling Group

Second half pre-tax profits at Stirling Group, garment manufacturer, improved from £555,000 to £701,000 and figures for the year to March 31, 1983 were up from £1.08m to £1.25m. Sales advanced from £13.73m to £15.63m. Tax for the year was higher at £624,000 compared with £465,000.

The final dividend is raised from 0.6p to 0.75p net for a total up from 1p to 1.25p.

Sterling Inds.

A final dividend of 1.45p by Sterling Industries lifts the total to 1.95p net for the year ended March 31 1983, against 1.75p. Profit was up from £465,000 to £735,000 before tax of £296,000 (£100,000). The proportion of Crewkerne Investments' profit attributable to the company came to *£227,000 (£204,000).*

Sterling is a light engineering subsidiary of Cayzer Trust.

Stockholders Invst.

Available revenue at the Stockholders Investment Trust slipped from £805,521 to £754,962 for the six months to the end of April 1983. The net interim dividend is held at 1.75p although earnings per 25p share were shown as down from 2.03p to 1.9p.

Net asset value after prior charges at par are shown as 259.5p (199p) and prior charges at market value as 263.8p (203.5p).

Mr C. Alan McLintock, chairman, says that a reduction in revenue for the year was foreshadowed in his last annual report.

Total income moved up from £1.76m to £1.98m. Expenses and interest took £430,591 (£196,068) and tax £696,018 (£655,966).

Stonehill

Pre-tax profits of domestic furniture manufacturer Stonehill Holdings increased from £21,000 to £102,000 for the year ended *April 3 1983. Turnover amounted to £15.09m, against £15.89m in* the previous 53 weeks.

Streeters

Public works and civil engineering contractor Streeters of Godalming incurred a loss of £387,000 in 1982 compared with a profit of £215,000.

Jones Stroud

Taxable profits of Jones Stroud (Holdings), manufacturer of fabrics, materials and accessories for the textile and electrical industries, advanced from £2.6m to £2.73m for the year to March 31 1983, and the directors are forecasting a further improvement in the current 12 months.

Stroud Riley

For the year ended March 31 1983, Stroud Riley Drummond turned in pre-tax profits of £1m, compared with £1.[illegible] previously which included £0.2m on the disposal of Hield Brothers shares. Turnover rose by 44 per cent to £15.1m, against £10.48m.

After tax of £221,000 (£336,000) and extraordinary debits up up from £87,000 to £115,000, net profits for the year came out at £664,000, against £695,000. Earnings per share were 10.85p (10.94p) net or 12.73p (10.16p) nil.

Sumrie Clothes

For the year ended April 2, 1983, Sumrie Clothes has almost broke even at the trading level, against a loss of £84,000, and reduced its loss to £35,000, against £138,000, at the pre-tax stage. Turnover came out at £2.63m (£2.76m).

Superdrug

For the first quarter to May 28 1983 turnover of the Superdrug Stores group expanded by £4m to £21.2m, excluding VAT. The profit moved ahead from £794,000 to £1.02m before tax of £449,000 (£350,000).

The company's shares were offered for sale in February 1983. For the 1982-83 financial year its sales reached £81.3m and its profits £5.31m.

Surmah Valley

For 1982 pre-tax profits of Surmah Valley Tea surged from £108,099 to £410,398 from turnover of £1.33m (£904,218).

Earnings per 25p share are shown at 28.16p, against 9.47p, after tax charge of £185,129 (£32,299).

Sutcliffe, Speakman

Following a return to taxable profits of £296,000, against losses of £95,000, in the second half, engineering concern Sutcliffe, Speakman ended the year to March 31 1983 in the black with a £408,000 turnround to profits of £158,000.

Earnings per 25p share are given as 3.7p (nil) but the dividend is again being missed.

Turnover for the year advanced from £6.86m to £7.09m, and trading profits were £449,000 against £21,000. Interest charges took £291,000 (£271,000) and tax came to £10,000 (credit £2,000) leaving net profits of £148,000 (losses £248,000). After minorites of £7,000 the attributable profits emerged at £141,000 (losses £324,000 after extraordinary debits of £74,000).

Syltone holds 9p

Troubles in the U.S. have continued for Syltone, the engineering and wholesaling electrical distribution group, and the overall profit for the year ended March 31 1983 has fallen from £1.18m to £53,000. The final dividend is 5.4p, as forecast, and maintains the total at 9p.

Research and development expenditure of £499,000 (£279,000) has been charged, although much of that could legitimately have been capitalised. Because of unrelieved overseas trading losses there is a tax charge of £112,000 (£538,000) and earnings are shown at 1.68p (24.19p) per share.

Symonds Eng.

A second half downturn at Symonds Engineering left pre-tax profits for the year ended March 31, 1983 lower at £165,322, against £254,016 before. First half figures had risen slightly from *£109,522 to £111,328.*

Tax for the year took £62,340 (£110,281) leaving earnings per 5p share down from 1.411 to 1.003p. The dividend is, however, maintained at 0.785p net with a final of 0.5625p (same).

Turnover was little changed at £2.91m (£2.9m).

John Swan

Livestock auctioneer and estate agent John Swan and Sons is raising its dividend from 8p to 8.5p net per share for the year ended April 30 1983. Earnings were 10.7p (13.4p).

Turnover amounted to £964,000 (£908,000). Net profit was £72,000 (£90,000) after tax £68,050 (£85,000).

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Tace

First half taxable profits of Tace, electronic, electrical and mechanical control equipment maker, to March 31, 1983, advanced from £156,000 to £444,000 on unchanged turnover of £8.12m.

Dividend payments are being restored with an interim of 1p net per 10p share and the directors forecast a total for the year of not less than 3p. Preference dividends have also been restored.

The directors intend to seek a separate Stock Exchange listing for one of the group's high technology subsidiaries before the end of the financial year.

They say the improvement in trading is continuing and the group's liquidity has increased. The year's *profits will show* a material increase, they add.

Taxable profits were struck after interest payable of £219,000 (£316,000). Tax took £188,000 (£54,000) and after minorities of £36,000 (£31,000) and extraordinary debits of £97,000 (£8,000) the stated earnings per share were 3.5p (1.1p).

Taddale Inv.

Reflecting changes in the accounting treatment of associated companies and pre-acquisition losses of subsidiaries, net profit attributable to shareholders of Taddale Investments has come out at £1.28m for the year ended April 30, 1983. On the same basis the figure for 1981-82 is £1.06m, against £0.7m actually published.

The final dividend is 1.25p to raise the total to 2.25p net *(0.7p).*

Tecalemit dives

Sharply lower pre-tax profits of £147,000, compared with £1.54m, were returned by Tecalemit for the 12 months ended March 31, 1983, but the group, with interests in engineering and electronics, is holding its dividend at 1.6p net with a same-again final of 0.8p.

Restructuring costs are reflected in extraordinary debits of £1.13m (nil).

Turnover for 1982-83 edged ahead from £52.24m to £56.32m. Pre-tax figures were arrived at after allowing for interest charges of £885,000 (£455,000). Loss per 25p share emerged 0.2p (4.2p earnings).

During the year the group invested £1.7m in new plant and machinery.

Television South

On turnover of £40.61m Television South, the independent TV programme contractor for the South and South-East of England, returned profits of £2.68m at the pre-tax level. Respectively, the results compare with £52.81m and a deficit of £1.09m for the preceding 17 months.

The figures were struck after deducting £5.6m (£3.83m) Channel 4 subscription, £2.37m (£1.43m) Exchequer levy and net interest payable of £622,000 (£1.1m)—the comparable figures also included a trading deficit prior to going on the air of £3.22m.

Tax took £700,000 (£69,000), leaving earnings per 10p share at 8.15p (8.46p for period).

Temple Bar Tst.

Profits of the Temple Bar Investment Trust improved from £1.51m to £1.62m for the six months to June 30 1983 before tax of £577,000, against £497,000.

The net interim dividend is held at 1.5p. Net assets per 25p ordinary share at June 30 totalled 109.34p (87.04p at end-December 1982) or 109.23p *(86.94p) allowing for full conversion of loan stock.*

Gross revenue for the half-year amounted to £1.85m (£1.69m).

Tesco Stores

A volume gain of 8 per cent underlines the success of Checkout '82, says Sir Leslie Porter, chairman of Tesco Stores (Holdings) on reporting an increase of 25.41 per cent in profits before tax from £42.7m to £53.5m for the year to February 26 1983. There was an increase of 14.37 per cent in turnover from £2.1bn to £2.4bn, including VAT of £127.4m against £107.6m.

Sir Leslie Porter, the chairman of Tesco Stores (Holdings), who said a volume gain of 8 per cent underlined the success of Checkout '82

The final net dividend has been lifted from 1.9p to 2.25p which raises the total from 3p to 3.5p. Earnings per 5p share are shown as rising from 9.23p to 12.57p.

Sir Leslie points out that the group's dry grocery market share has increased about 1 per cent to 14 per cent. During the year 17 new stores were opened—during the current year six new stores will be opened. The policy of opening new superstores and ing out smaller units has increased average store size in the five years to February 1983 from 8,000 sq ft to 15,200 sq ft.

Tex Abrasives

On higher turnover of £5.17m, compared with £4.94m, Tex Abrasives returned lower profits of £138,000 pre-tax, against £187,000, for the year to end-March 1983.

The dividend is held at 3.25p net per 10p share by a same-*again final of 2.5p—earnings* emerged at 4.2p (6.9p) per share. The group manufactures industrial coated abrasive products.

Textured Jersey

Pre-tax profits of Textured Jersey declined from £645,000 to £308,000 for the year to April 30 1983 but the dividend is being *maintained* at 4p net by a same-again final of 2.25p.

Turnover for the past year amounted to £11.35m (£10.85m). Earnings per 10p share emerged at 7.15p (13.52p) after tax of £28,000 (£121,000).

Third Mile

THIRD MILE INVESTMENT has moved into a net loss of £20,000 for 1982, against a profit of £84,000. Tax charged was £24,000 (£19,000).

The loss per 25p share is 1.07p (earnings 3.27p), and the final dividend is held at 0.875p for a one and only payment, compared with a total of 1.575p in 1981.

Thorn EMI

With a 37 per cent decrease overseas being offset by a 48 per cent improvement by the UK side of Thorn EMI's activities, trading profits for the year to March 31 1983 advanced from £334m to £400.4m and the pre-tax result pushed ahead from £105.4m to £122m.

Turnover expanded from £2.44bn to £2.72bn and the taxable figure—£33.3m (£52.6m) of which related to overseas—was struck after interest of £42.2m (£35.4m) and depreciation of £236.2m (£193.2m).

After tax of £53.1m (£33.2m) and minorities of £2.6m (£1.5m), earnings per 25p share are stated at 35.4p (37.9p). On these the final dividend is 11.7p net for a 15.75p (14.625p) total. Extraordinary debits this time were £25.6m (£5.6m) including provisions to cover the total amount invested in VHD.

Throgmorton Trust

Revenue of the Throgmorton Trust came out ahead from £1.27m to £1.43m for the six months ended May 31, 1983, after tax of £668,576 against £547,236. Gross revenue amounted to £2.84m, compared with £2.09m.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 3.3p (2.92p) and the interim dividend is unchanged at 2.75p net per share—directors expect to at least maintain the final at 3.75p.

Net asset value per share is given as 200.4p (151.6p).

Results do not include figures from R. Green Properties or the Pentland Investment Trust, both acquired since November 30, 1982, apart from a special 5p dividend from Pentland.

Time Products

Second half losses at Time Products have slowed, and the overall deficit for the year ended January 31, 1983, has been pulled back to £3.88m, compared with a profit of £1m in the previous year. After tax, minorities and extraordinary charges of £8m, there is a net loss of £11.83m (profit £959,000) and no dividend is being recommended (1.125p total in 1981-82). Per share the loss is 7.73p (earnings 2.28p).

'Times' Veneer

Including a £29,826 share of associated company loss pre-tax deficit of "The Times" Veneer Company increased from £140,218 to £191,023 for the 1982 year. Turnover, net of VAT, slipped from £4.28m to £4.06m.

Loss per 5p share at 2.56p (1.99p) pre-extraordinary items. There is again no dividend.

F. H. Tomkins

Improved pre-tax profits from £1.27m to £1.59m have been shown by F. H. Tomkins for the year to May 1 1983. The net final dividend has been lifted to 0.925p which raises the total from 1.35p to 1.5p.

Turnover of this maker of buckles, bright drawn steel and nuts and bolts expanded from £15.32m to £17.17m.

Tax amounted to £444,000 (£252,000) and after minorities, attributable profits came through ahead from £991,000 to £1.14m. Earnings per 5 p share are shown as rising from 3.856p to 4.417p.

Tomkinsons

Pre-tax profits at Tomkinsons, carpet manufacturer and spinner, virtually doubled from £217,000 to £432,000 in the six months to April 2 1983. Turnover improved from £6.6m to £7.06m, and trading profits increased from £237,000 to £413,000.

The pre-tax figure was after interest receivable of £19,000 (£20,000 payable). No tax was charged against £36,000 last time.

R. W. Toothill

Despite a fall in sales from £4.82m to £4.54m excluding VAT, pre-tax profits of R. W. Toothill increased from £248,000 to £292,000 for the year to March 31, 1983.

A final dividend up from 3.5p to 4p net makes a higher total payment of 7p (6.5p) per 25p share.

Depreciation charge was lower at £54,000 (£81,000) but tax rose from £106,000 to £134,000.

Tops Estates

A rise from £4,180 to £16,625 in pre-tax profits is reported by Tops Estates for the 15 months to March 31, 1983. No dividend is payable. The company's shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Rents and service recoverable totalled £52,217 compared with £30,596. Tax for the period was up from £2,207 to £7,170, and there were extraordinary charges of £17,743 this time resulting from the USM application. Net assets per share were 11.34p against 3.92p excluding investment option, and 38.35p including investment option.

Town & City Props.

Following the return to profitability reported at halfway, Town and City Properties has pushed further ahead to end the year to March 24, 1983 with a pre-tax profit of £3.67m, as against a £2.94m loss previously. At halftime, there was a £5.55m swing round to a £1.62m profit.

The company is to pay a final dividend of 0.45p net, which together with the interim of 0.25p, makes a total of 0.7p compared with 0.01p. Earnings per 10p share came out at 1.88p (0.65p deficit).

A valuation on an open market basis of group properties at March 24, 1983 totalling £301m (84 per cent of the property portfolio excluding the exhibition centres) has given a gross surplus of £5.9m.

The company is proposing to change its name to Sterling Guarantee Trust, although the name of Town & City Properties will continue to be used for its *property activities.*

Tozer Kemsley

A continuing deterioration in performance at Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn (Holdings) resulted in a pre-tax loss for 1982 of £6.34m, as against a £1.01m profit previously. The group's share of associates' profits tumbled from £6.35m to £0.55m.

Reflecting extraordinary charges of £19.95m (£1.15m credits), the attributable deficit emerged at £26.15m, compared with a £1.76m profit. Tax took £363,000 (£459,000). Loss per 20p share was 11.5p (1.1p earnings) and there is no dividend for the year, against a total 0.6p in 1981.

Transcontinental

For the year ended March 31 1983 pre-tax profits of Transcontinental Services Group NV, which was incorporated last September to acquire the share capital of Esperanza, totalled £4.7m. The figures compare with £4.22m reported by the Esperanza company the previous year.

A final dividend of 6p makes a total of 9.57p, the gross equivalent of dividends paid by Esperanza for 1981-82. Earnings *per share amounted to 14.9p* (13.9p).

Turnover for the past year expanded from £60.68m to £70.4m—the group provides specialist services to industry, insurance, finance and trade on a wider international scale, particularly in North America.

Transparent Paper

On lower turnover of £27.22m, compared with £36.35m, transparent cellulose wrappings maker Transparent Paper—which is subject to an agreed £4.35m bid from Bunzl the paper and packaging group—turned round from pre-tax losses of £2.18m to profits of £150,740 in the year to April 2 1983. There is again no dividend.

After a tax credit of £6,081 (£9,854) net profits were £156,821 (losses £2.17m) and there were extraordinary debits of £166,521 (£3.16m). Earnings per share are given at 2.03p 1983/84.

Tranwood

Turnover of Tranwood Group, manufacturer of hosiery and associated products, fell from £5.94m to £5.42m for the year to January 31 1983 and pre-tax profits declined from £164,298 to £22,054.

After a tax credit of £54,195 (£44,500 charge), earnings per 5p share are shown at 0.46p (0.83p) basic and 0.63p (0.98p) fully diluted. There is again no dividend.

Minorities amounted to £31,886 (£39,541) and, with extraordinary debits taking £24,732 compared with credits of £79,718, the attributable balance finished lower at £19,631 (£159,975).

Trent Holdings

Taxable profits of specialist door maufacturer Trent Holdings moved ahead from £225,409 to £363,987 in the year to March 31 1983, on higher turnover of £3.2m, compared with £2.49m.

Earnings per 10p share are given as rising from 10.11p to 15.05p and the year's dividend is being lifted from 1.75p to 2.1p net, with a final of 1.26p (1.05p). A two-for-one scrip is also proposed.

Pre-tax profits were struck after interest of £37,888 (£42,203) and depreciation of £69,317 (£58,546). Tax took £37,320 (£6,049).

TR City of Ldn.

Profits of TR City of London Trust advanced from £2.35m to £2.64m for the year ended June 30, 1983 after tax of £1.29m, against £1.18m.

Earnings rose by 13.2 per cent to 5.22p (4.61p) per 25p deferred share and a fourth interim dividend of 1.25p lifts the net total from 4.5p to 5p. A scrip issue on a one-for-one basis is also proposed along with a forecast total dividend of not less than 2.7p (2.5p) adjusted for the scrip for 1983/84.

Net asset value per share increased from 107.3p to 158.6p, a rise of 47.8 per cent. Total income for the past year totalled £4.22m (£3.82m).

Trident Television

A slight reduction in pre-tax profits from £3.86m to £3.78m *has been shown by Trident Television* for the six months to the end of March 1983. *Turnover of* this casino operator, which has other leisure related activities, amounted to £12.89m against £52.13m.

The net interim dividend has been lifted from 1.26p to 1.5p—earnings per 10p share are shown as rising from 3.1p to 3.5p.

At the operating level, profits slipped from £3.13m to £2.38m. Pre-tax profits included associate profits of £1.38m against £724,000. Tax amounted to £2.02m (£2.3m). Extraordinary credits came to £140,000 (debits £1.55m.)

Tribune Investment

After-tax revenue of Tribune *Investment* Trust *came out* at £604,640 for the six months to June 30, 1983. For the corresponding period last year the figure was £491,915. Revenue figures are not however, comparable owing to the incidence of dividend payments.

Earnings per 25p share were 2.36p (1.92p). The interim dividend is raised from 0.9p to 1p net, but the directors caution that the final will not necessarily be increased by the same percentage as the interim — last year's final was 2.5p.

Gross revenue amounted to £1.25m (£0.91m). Tax charge was £423,809 (£343,843) and after the dividend, a balance of £348,390 (£261,290) was retained.

Net asset value per share increased from 133.6p to 212.9p.

Triefus deficit

For the year 1982 Triefus has moved from a profit of £127,000 to a loss of £284,000 and is cutting its dividend from 0.625p to *0.125p net.*

Tax takes £135,000 (£401,000), minorities £157,000 (£149,000) and there is credited profit on sales of investment and machinery £334,000 (£142,000). The company markets, processes and values diamonds.

Triplex Foundries

Including trading losses of £1.19m by two subsidiaries which have now been closed, taxable losses of Triplex Foundries Group deepened from £397,000 to £992,000 in the year to March 31 1983. However, the currently continuing companies achieved a small profit after interest charges, Mr Lewis Robertson, chairman, points out.

A nominal dividend of 0.5p net (1p) per 25p share is being paid.

Turnover fell from £34.52m to £30.56m while trading profits were down from £418,000 to £249,000. Taxable profits were struck after redundancy and other exceptional costs of £417,000 (£126,000) and interest payable of £824,000 (£689,000).

Tax took £19,000 (credit £1,000) and there were extraordinary closure and other costs of £4.46m (£1.25m). Preference dividends of £7,000 (same) left attributable losses of £5.47m (£1.66m).

TR North America

With total income 31.6 per cent higher at £2.93m, after-tax revenue of TR North America Investment Trust increased 15.1 per cent from £1.11m to £1.27m for the year ended March 31, 1983. Last year's revenue was before including extraordinary income of £98,900.

Earnings per 25p share improved by 15.3 per cent from an adjusted 3.39p to 3.91p, while the dividend total is effectively raised to 3.25p (adjusted 3.125p) net by a final of 2.25p.

Net asset value per share advanced from an adjusted 111.1p to 178.5p after deducting prior charges at redemption value.

TR Trustees

For the year ended May 31, 1983 net revenue of TR Trustees Corporation moved up from £2.87m to £3.19m, after tax of £1.55m (£1.39m). Earnings were 3.55p (3.19p) and the dividend total is 3.2p net (3p), the final being 2.1p. After prior charges at par net asset value is shown at 130.9p (99.1p).

Company has decided to expand commitment to high technology development capital, and plans to invest some £8m primarily in U.S. West Coast-based opportunities.

Trusthouse Forte

Property disposals of £10.6m, compared with £2.7m, helped boost interim pre-tax profits of hotels and catering group Trusthouse Forte to £23.7m, an improvement of £11.6m over the figures for the corresponding half of the previous year.

The directors say the trading performance of the first six months, to April 30, 1983, has provided a sound basis for the second half. With buoyant trading in the seven weeks since the end of the opening half they look forward with confidence to the full year's outcome—a greater part of the year's profit is always produced in the second half.

Meanwhile, the net interim dividend is being lifted from 1.5p to 2p per 25p share—a final of 5.5p was paid previously.

Trading receipts for the six months totalled £440.2m (£408.4m).

Trust of Property

Results of Trust of Property Shares for the six months to June 30 1983. Franked investment income was £13,193 (£10,290). Treasury bills surplus nil (£12,490), short term interest £1,965 (£583) and underwriting commission nil (£625). Pre-tax revenue totalled £11,352 (£19,452). Tax amounted to £3,406 (£7,526).

Net assets per share were 19.9p (10.5p). During 1983 a recovery has occurred in the property share index and in the company's portfolio, nevertheless, deep defensive discounts continue to apply, notwithstanding good results which have been reported.

TSL Thermal Synd.

Losses, before tax, of TSL Thermal Syndicate, maker of vitreous silica, increased from £264,000 to £722,000 in the half year to April 30, 1983 and there is no interim dividend. Last year an interim of 1p net was paid but the final was omitted.

The directors say that until changes are completed, there can be no promise of improvements in the second half.

Sales decreased from £6.35m to £5.94m. There is no tax (£59,000 credit) and after extraordinary debits up from £106,000 to £124,000, the net loss came out higher at £846,000 (£311,000).

Turnbull Scott

Heavier pre-tax losses are reported by Turnbull Scott, ship owner, and engineer, for the year to March 31 1983. The losses have deepened from £1.84m to £2.33m. Turnover rose from £16.38m to £17.13m, and trading losses were slightly less at £871,000 compared with £985,000 before depreciation of £1.31m against £1.06m, and net interest charges of £174,000—there was a credit of £209,000 last time.

The final dividend is raised, however, from 2p to 3p for a total up by 1p to 6p.

There were extraordinary credits of £2.71m (£1.7m debits), and these comprise a net surplus of £3.73m (£1.36m) on disposal of ships, and other debits of £1.03m (£347,000). Profit after extraordinary items was £343,000 (£832,000 losses). A provision of £600,000 for deferred tax in respect of ship disposals is included in other extraordinary items.

Tyne Tees TV

An increased Channel Four subscription means that profits before tax at Tyne Tees Television Holdings showed a slight decrease from £1.65m to £1.55m. The subscription shot up from £651,000 to £3.2m but was partly offset by a reduced Exchequer Levy of £1.26m against £2.72m.

Turnover of this unquoted company increased from £17.17m to £21.47m for the year to the end of March 1983.

Channel Four has only provided a small part of group income because of the dispute between IPA and Equity which continues to affect the whole of the television network.

Earnings per £1 share are shown as rising from 6.8p to 13.53p. The attributable balance moved from a deficit of £99,000 to £683,000 profits—last year extraordinary debits took £439,000 and pre-acquisition profits £398,000.

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UBM back in black

A swing round from a loss of £2.03m to a pre-tax profit of £2.68m has been achieved by *UBM Group in the year ended* February 28, 1983. At midway, the company reported a £525,000 profit, as against a £706,000 loss before.

Yearly earnings per 25p share were 2.2p (1.6p deficit) and the final dividend is raised by 0.2p to 1.2p net for a higher total payment of 2.2p (2p).

Sales rose 18 per cent to £306.13m (£260.16m) while trading profits were increased substantially from £0.21m to £5.44m, before net interest charges of £2.76m (£2.24m). Tax took £1.2m (£1.37m) but reflecting an extraordinary credit of £1.03m (£3.33m debit), the net surplus came out at £2.35m (£4.27m deficit).

UKO International

A return to pre-tax profit at the year end has been shown by UKO International with a surplus of £557,000 for the 12 months to April 1 1983, compared with a previous loss of £483,000. Turnover of this manufacturer of ophthalmic lenses with interests in catering moved up from £50.65m to £51.88m.

There is again no dividend—the last payment was a final of 3p in 1981. Earnings per 25p share before extraordinary credits of £20,000 (debits £198,000) were given as 2.9p (losses 3.8p) and after the items as 3p (losses 5.2p).

The available balance emerged in surplus at £423,000 (deficit £735,000).

Unichem on course

For the first six months of 1983 turnover of Unichem rose by £30m to £162.3m and Mr Peter Dodd, managing director, says he is "extremely pleased with the results."

He considered that sales and profits have risen to a satisfactory level and anticipated "another record year."

Uniflex Holdings

Taxable losses of furniture maker Uniflex Holdings deepened from £658,000 to £995,000 in 1982, on higher turnover of £25.93m, compared with £24.42m.

Losses per 10p share are stated at 40.5p (27.53p) and the year's dividend is again being missed.

Net interest was £536,000 (£313,000), there was no tax charge (£1,000), minority credits came to £11,000 (debits £5,000) and extraordinary debits amounted to £752,000 (£159,000) including closure and reorganisation costs of £789,641.

Unigate ahead

A second half pick up at Unigate following a £4.3m midway reduction produced a 14.4 per cent increase in full year pre-tax profits to £43.7m, against a restated £38.2m previously.

The principal factor behind the improvement was a turnround at Unigate Meat Holdings, which converted a loss of £4.7m into a trading profit of £2.4m.

Turnover for the year ended March 31 1983 rose by 10 per cent to £1.66bn, compared with £1.5bn. The directors say 1983-84 should be a year of solid real growth, building on the firm foundations now laid.

The final dividend is stepped up from 4p to 4.3p net for an increased total of 6.8p (6.5p) per 25p share. Stated earnings per share improved by 0.3p to 14.1p.

Profits attributable to ordinary holders amounted to £30.8m (£30m), before net extraordinary charges of £13.7m (£14.5m) on rationalisation and closures of businesses.

In spite of a higher contribution from Unigate Dairy Holdings—at £32.7m (£30.7m), its share of group trading profits of £61.1m (£47.7m) was down from 64 per cent to 54 per cent. U.S. trading profits now account for 17 per cent of the total.

Unilock Holdings

A return to profits before tax of £410,000, against losses of £1.48m, has been shown by Unilock Holdings for the year to April 3 1983. Turnover of this group which makes relocatable partitioning systems slipped from £18.31m to £16.42m.

The net final dividend of 0.37p raises the total from 0.325p to 0.7p. Earnings per share of this company whose shares are traded on the market created by Granville and Co are shown as 1.76p against 4.95p losses last time.

Union Discount

The Union Discount Company of London had declared an unchanged interim dividend of 11p per £1 stock unit for the year ending December 31, 1983. The directors say that profit for the first half of 1983 was less than that for the comparable period. In the first half of 1982 base rates fell 2 per cent, whereas in the comparable period this year base rates have declined only ½ per cent.

Unitech £6m rights

An increase in taxable profits from £3.78m to £5.87m and a £6.4m rights issue is announced by Unitech, electronic components and equipment manufacturer, for the year ended May 28, 1983.

For the 12 months sales amounted to £115.8m, compared with £89.4m. Directors say that some of the profits advance is attributable to a full-year's inclusion, for the first time, of results of the Erie group, acquired on February 1, 1982.

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UK COMPANY NEWS

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Continued

Group profits had moved ahead from £1.47m to £2.13m at halfway, with sales at £52.07m (£39.9m).

After year-end tax of £2.67m (£1.73m) earnings per 10p share are shown as 8.4p, against 5.4p, and the dividend is effectively raised to 4.24p (3.35p adjusted) with a final payment of 2.7p.

Some 3.8m new ordinary shares are being offered at 175p, payable in full, on a one-for-ten basis. The directors say the funds raised will help repay the Erie acquisition and help towards the current and anticipated rate of group growth.

The issue has been underwritten by Hill Samuel and brokers are Buckmaster & Moore.

United Computer

Profits of United Computer and Technology Holdings advanced from £23,163 to £31,658 for the year to end-March 1983 after tax of £17,503, compared with £14,975.

The dividend is being increased by 0.3p to 1.1p net per 50p share from earnings of 1.2862p (0.9265p). Net asset value per share improved from 102p to 156p.

Gross revenue for the period rose to £120,439 (£83,498) but expenditure took £71,278 (£45,360).

Unquoted investments have not been revalued nor has any attributable income been taken into account. These include the group's 21.07 per cent interest in Safe Computing, purchased during the year, which showed a turnround from loss into trading profits of £410,367, which after non-recurring interest charges, tax and extraordinary items associated with the restructuring of the company gave rise to net profits of £279,171.

United Electronic

After a cut in losses made by discontinued activities from £243,000 to £58,000 taxable profits of electronic components distributor and hi-fi accessory and video film retailer United Electronic Holdings advanced by £288,000 to £365,000 in the year to March 31, 1983. Turnover slipped marginally from £11.75m to £11.58m.

The year's dividend of this Unlisted Securities Market company, which is subject to a recommended offer from Brammer, is being raised from 0.92p to 1p net per 20p share with a final of 0.65p (0.35p). Earnings per share are given higher at 3.3p (1.3p).

The pre-tax profits were struck after higher interest charges of £227,000 (£197,000). Tax took £26,000 (credit £51,000) and following minorities of £8,000 (£3,000) and extraordinary debits of £358,000 (£21,000), there were attributable losses of £27,000 (profits £104,000).

United Glass

The directors of United Glass Holdings, manufacturer of glass and plastic containers, say that in recent months there has been a considerable deterioration in the company's principal business in glass containers. Demand has fallen substantially and selling prices have been depressed by intense competition.

In the meantime, the company's results for 28 weeks to June 11, 1983 show pre-tax losses of £3.99m compared with £537,000. Sales fell from £97.5m to £87.86m. There was a trading loss of £1.38m compared with a profit of £3.89m. Redundancy payments and other closure costs totalled £373,000 against £1.59m. Financial charges were down from £2.84m to £2.24m.

United Spring

Although the spring division of United Spring and Steel Group has benefited from reorganisation, increased losses elsewhere meant the group made an overall pre-tax loss of £286,000 in the half-year to March 31 1983, as against a £166,000 profit before.

Turnover was little changed at £13.37m (£13.56m), but the operating deficit came out at £67,000 (£318,000 profit), split between: steel stockholding and processing £30,000 loss (£372,000 profit); engineering loss £96,000 (£19,000 loss) and spring making £59,000 profit (£35,000 loss). Interest charges increased from £152,000 to £219,000.

Loss per 10p share for the half year was 2.11p (1.82p earnings before extraordinary item). There is again no interim dividend—last year's final was also omitted.

Updown Investment

Total income of Updown Investment Company improved from £112,675 to £129,394 in the first half of 1983 and net available revenue came through at £72,753, against £56,966.

Net asset value per 25p share increased from 119.3p to 195.5p.

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Valor at £2.65m

Pre-tax profits of Valor rose by £542,000 to £2.65m in the year to March 31, 1983 on sales of £60.69m, compared with £51.14m—the group manufactures heating and cooking appliances.

The dividend is being lifted from 3.024p to 3.5p net on the enlarged capital. Basic earnings per 25p share totalled 14.16p (11.81p adjusted) and 13.08p (10.82p adjusted) fully diluted.

Vantage Securities

Gross income at Vantage Securities rose from £32,806 to £35,926 for the six months to the end of June. Interest and expenses amounted to £6,976 against £6,117 and tax took £8,955 compared with £8,712.

The net interim dividend has been lifted from 0.3p to 0.35p. Last year a total of 1.1p was paid. Earnings per 10p share are shown as rising from 0.6p to 0.67p.

Net assets per share moved ahead from 28.5p to 40.9p.

Vantona Viyella

First-half results of Vantona Viyella, with interests in household textiles, fashion fabrics and garments, show pre-tax profits ahead from £1.6m to £3.38m. Turnover for the period, to May 28 1983, totalled £121.1m compared with £48.8m. Interim dividend is held at 3p net.

The figures consolidate for the first time results for the enlarged group, including those for three months of the former Carrington Viyella companies and those of the former Vantona companies for six months.

Comparisons are for the former Vantona companies only. For the corresponding period last year the former Carrington Viyella companies incurred a pre-tax loss.

Pre-tax figures for the half year were struck after interest charges of £1.81m (£792,000) but included a £449,000 (nil) share of associates' profits.

Earnings amounted to 7.4p (5.4p) per 20p share prior to extraordinary debits of £755,000 (£2.85m).

Vectis Stone

Pre-tax profits of construction, fuel distribution, toiletries concern, Vectis Stone Group moved ahead from £192,000 to £235,000 for the half year ended March 31, 1983 and directors expect the full-year figure to exceed the £576,000 for 1981/82.

Following reorganisation, the civil engineering companies traded profitably and the construction division had a successful half-year. As indicated, Columbia has been trading unsatisfactorily and will suffer a loss for the 12 months.

After tax of £122,000 (£87,000) earnings per 10p share are shown as 0.81p (0.75p) and the interim dividend is maintained at 0.6p net—last year's final payment was 1.2p.

The attributable balance was £98,000 (£105,000) after an extraordinary debit of £15,000 (nil) being compensation paid to a former director.

Victoria Carpet

For the year to March 31 1983 Victoria Carpet Holdings cut its pre-tax losses from £223,850 to £39,024 and the directors say that the encouraging trend is continuing. The company has returned to profitability in the first quarter of the current year, they report.

Turnover for the 12 months under review expanded from £16.81m to £17.46m and at the trading level a profit of £50,800 (£34,215) was made. However, the group was pushed into the red by bad debts of £89,824 (£118,065) from the Australian subsidiary. Last year there was also a £140,000 rationalisation cost for UK Axminster yarn stocks.

Tax took £21,440 (£58,134) and there was, in addition, an extraordinary debit of £47,200 this time, representing a loss on the closure of the Australian subsidiary's Axminster department. The year's final dividend of 0.2p net stands as the total and compares with 0.15p.

Vinten Group

As expected a sharp increase in pre-tax profits has been shown by Vinten Group for the year to the end of March 1983 with the surplus moving up from £2.42m to £3.36m. After a halfway rise of £198,000 to £1.05m the directors predicted a substantial rise in sales and profits in the second half.

Sales of this photographic, film and television equipment manufacturer expanded from £12.7m to £17.7m.

The final net dividend has been lifted from 1.4p to 1.645p making a total of 2.45p (2.1p). Earnings per 20p share are shown as rising from 9.5p to 11p before extraordinary debits of £182,000 this time, which related to goodwill written off.

Vosper

For the six months to April 30 1983 pre-tax profits of Vosper, shipbuilder, shiprepairer and engineer, fell from £898,000 to £752,000 on turnover of £14.84m against £15.41m.

The result was struck after depreciation of £287,000 (£260,000) and interest of £248,000 (£413,000), but included investment income of £190,000 (£186,000) and a £120,000 (£168,000) share of associates.

Tax took £60,000 (£266,000) for earnings of 11.5p (10.5p) per 25p share, and the net interim dividend is held at 2p. Last year's total payment was 5p on profits of £1.74m.

W

Wace Group

Second-half pre-tax losses at Wace Group were cut sharply from £447,000 to £196,000 which wave a reduced deficit for 1982 of £508,000 against £806,000. The directors say that 1982 was disappointing, but they expect further recovery if present trends continue.

There is again no dividend for this group which services the requirements of advertisers and printers. The last payment was for 1980. Losses per 20p share were shown as moving down from 19.14p to 14.91p.

Turnover fell from £5.67m to £5.19m.

Pre-tax losses were struck after increased interest charges of £188,000 (£146,000) and reduced exceptional expenditure of £309,000 (£444,000). Tax credits fell sharply from £183,000 to £19,000.

John Waddington

A return to profits in the second half has enabled John Waddington, maker of games, printer, etc., to produce a surplus of £162,000 for the full year ended April 2, 1983, compared to a loss of £326,000, from sales of £47.29m (£44.15m). The dividend is being held at 0.5p net per share.

The directors are rejecting the bid from Norton Opax and are forecasting a substantial recovery in profitability and dividends for the current year.

Wagon Industrial

For the year ended March 31 1983 profit of Wagon Industrial Holdings has fallen from £3.19m to £2.9m. Earnings are shown at 7.45p (9.19p) and the dividend is held at 6p net, with a final of 4p. The profit was struck after redundancy costs £209,000 (£455,000)—mainly due to action taken to streamline the Vinco (France) operation, and net financial charges £206,000 (credit £66,000). Also there were lower profits in the material handling storage and office equipment divisions.

C. & W. Walker

With exceptional credits amounting to £97,000 against £958,000, C. & W. Walker Holdings, engineering contractor, plant and equipment maker, cut its pre-tax losses from £1.22m to £119,000 for the year to January 29 1983. At mid-term the deficit was down from £333,000 to £41,000.

Turnover for the 12 months fell from £9.79m to £9.26m, the reduction being attributable to the closure of Archibald McMillan & Co and the disposal of the group's insulated chimneys business in the early part of the year.

Losses were struck after depreciation of £218,000 (£266,000) and interest of £273,000 (£267,000). With no tax charge, losses per 25p share totalled 2.96p (30.32p) and dividend payments have again been passed.

Walker & Staff

A rise in pre-tax profits from £93,000 to £174,000 has been shown by Walker and Staff Holdings for the year to the end of March 1983. Turnover of this engineering supplier moved up from £3.35m to £3.87m.

The net dividend for the year has been lifted from 1.35p to 1.5p. Earnings per 5p share are shown as rising from 3.02p to 5.04p.

Ward Brothers

Pre-tax profits of Ward Brothers fell from £1.56m to £1.27m for 1982 on turnover of £30.48m against £27.44m.

Warehouse Group

Second half pre-tax profits at the Warehouse Group, fashion boutiques, rose from £42,000 to £93,000 and profits for the full year to March 31, 1983 improved from £114,000 to £178,000. Turnover was almost £1m higher at £3.32m compared with £2.33m. The pre-tax figure was after interest charges of £11,000 against £8,000. Tax this time was £17,000.

The dividend is increased from 2.5p to 3.125p net, and absorbs £21,518 (£12,000). There are waivers amounting to £15,173 (£8,652). Stated earnings per 25p share improved from £3 p to 33.6p.

Warner Holidays

For the six months ended March 31 1983 loss before tax of Warner Holidays, wholly-owned subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan, increased from £1.65m to £1.96m.

Gross revenue amounted to £757,000 (£902,000) and the pre-tax figure was after interest and rent received, last time, of £22,000, and interest paid on debentures and bank loans of £437,000 (£262,000).

J. W. Wassall

For the third successive year, no ordinary dividends are being paid by J. W. Wassall, the Leicester-based multiple footwear retailer. The company has, however, swung back into profit with figures of £17,529 for the 43 weeks to January 29 1983. In the previous year to March 31 1982, the company incurred losses of £177,999.

The pre-tax figure includes profits from property sales totalling £119,537 (£24,236). Turnover was down from £2.37m to £2.17m. Tax for the period was £563 (£1,168). There was a transfer of £24,000 from the mortgage redempton reserve—in the previous year there was a £3,000 transfer to reserves.

Watsham's

A rise in pre-tax profits has been shown by Watsham's from £969,472 to £1.21m for the year to the end of March 1983. Turnover of ths maker fo specialised products in optical, instrumentation and industrial safety industries expanded from £5.19m to £6.43m.

The final net dividend has been lifted from 7.25p to 8.35p which raises the total from 11p to 12.1p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as moving ahead from 26.8p to 27.3p.

Tax amounted to £486,645 (£288,742). After minorities, extraordinary debits took £152,071 (£253,614) in reorganisation costs.

Bank deposits and cash at the year end were £691,206 and have increased since then, say the directors.

Watson & Philip

A decline from £424,000 to £300,000 in pre-tax profits has been shown by food distributor Watson & Philip for the 26 weeks to April 29, 1983. The directors say that prospects for the rest of the year are such that they can recommend maintaining the net interim dividend at 1.33p.

Earnings per share for the period under review are given as slipping from 3.1p to 2.3p.

Turnover fell from £42.5m to £38.21m.

Pre-tax profits were struck after interest costs down from £116,000 to £49,000. Tax amounted to £108,000 (£167,000). After extraordinary debits reduced from £14,000 to £3,000 available profits emerged down from £243,000 to £189,000.

Waverley Cameron

For the six months to the end of June 1983 Waverley Cameron, Edinburgh-based stationery maker, produced pre-tax profits of £15,246 against losses of £72,263. Turnover moved up from £1.01m to £1.12m.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 1.27p against losses last time of 4.66p. In the last full year a single dividend of 3.75p was paid.

Joseph Webb

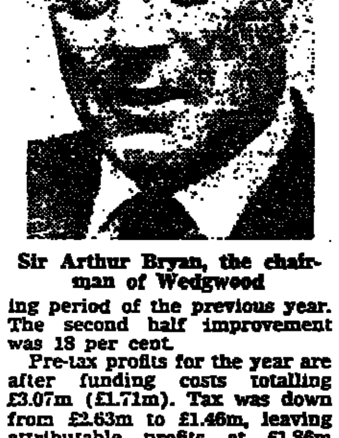
Following a fall from £240,000 to £95,000 at halfway, Joseph Webb, estate development, property investment concern, finished the March 31 1983 year well down at £122,000 pre-tax, compared with £435,000 previously.

Turnover was also behind at £4.92m, against £5.27m, but the dividend is maintained at 0.511p net per 5p share with a same-again final payment of 0.3797p. Earnings per share are shown as 0.2p (1.5p).

Wedgwood falls

Second half pre-tax profits at Wedgwood, manufacturer of bone china and earthenware, fell from £3.05m to £2.22m, and figures for the full year to April 2 1983 were substantially lower at £3.32m compared with £7.02m.

Sales for the year were 3.5 per cent higher at £121.09m against £116.99m—at halfway, sales totalled £53.78m, some 10.5 per cent down on the corresponding period of the previous year. The second half improvement was 18 per cent.



Sir Arthur Bryan, the chairman of Wedgwood

Pre-tax profits for the year are after funding costs totalling £3.07m (£1.71m). Tax was down from £2.63m to £1.46m, leaving attributable profits at £1.86m (4.4m). Dividends absorb 1.68m (1.67m), leaving retained profits at just 177,000 compared with 2.73m.

Stated earnings per 25p share fell from 11.7p to 4.9p.

Wellman's £3m losses

Wellman, thermal and mechanical engineer, designer and manufacturer, plunged into losses of £3.04m in the year to March 31 1983 compared with pre-tax profits of £1.08m. Turnover was down from £45.68m to £40.38m. A nominal dividend of 0.1p is being paid compared with a final of 1.75p and a total of 3.35p net in the previous year.

The pre-tax figure was after interest charges of £658,000 (£357,000), U.S. strike costs of £1.64m and redundancies costs of £144,000 (£58,000). There was a tax credit of £69,000 against a charge of £603,000, and extraordinary debits totalled £350,000 (£216,000). Minorities took £3,000 this time. Loss per 25p share was 22.65p (3.65p earnings). Net asset value per share was down from 63.8p to 41.4p.

Western Board

Including listed investment sale profit of £346,000, against £49,000, pre-tax profits of Western Board Mills, mill and fibre board maker, moved ahead from £1.74m to £1.96m for the year ended March 31 1983. Turnover slipped from £4.13m to £3.79m.

After tax of £852,000 (£879,000) earnings per 10p share are shown as 20.9p (16.2p) and the dividend is lifted to 7.3p (6.5p) net with a final payment of 5.3p.

The first two months of the current year show improved turnover and profits, the directors state.

Continued on next page

APPOINTMENTS

Peter Laister to take over as chairman of Thorn/EMI

Sir Richard Cave, chairman of THORN EMI will retire as chairman and from the board on March 31 1984. Mr Peter Laister, managing director, is to be appointed by the board as the chief executive and chairman designate with effect from October 1. Sir William Barlow, and Mr H. G. Mourgue, will be appointed vice-chairmen of the board from the same date.

*

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND has appointed Sir Harold Smedley, deputy chairman, chairman of the London board, following the retirement of Mr W. R. Russell. Mr E. P. Chappell has been appointed deputy chairman.

*

Mr J. H. Rogers and Mr V. G. Williams have been appointed directors of WILLIS FABER AND DUMAS (UK). Mr L. J. Ball has been appointed a deputy chairman of Willis Faber (Underwriting Management), Sovereign Marine and General Insurance Co., Devenport Underwriting Agency, and Devonport Insurance Co.

*

At JOHN FINLAN in succession to Mr J. Finlan, Mr T. S. Jamieson has been appointed non-executive chairman, with Mr Finlan becoming deputy chairman. Mr G. G. S. Ames relinquishes his position as deputy chairman and remains group managing director. In addition Sir Hugh Fraser, Mr W. Fitch and Mr J. McIlroy, join the board in a non-executive capacity, and Mr W. P. Hetherington and Mr F. C. Farrell resign from the board, but remain with the company.

*

Mr T. Graham Lock has been appointed chief executive of AMALGAMATED METAL CORP.

*

Mr Frederick Newall has become chairman and managing director of NCR. Mr Newall has been executive assistant to the chairman and president of NCR Corp. since August 1982.

*

Mr Chris Maile has been appointed managing director and Mr Len Harvey a director of STERLING BROKERS. Mr Brian Deeble has been appointed chairman and managing director of the newly-formed foreign currency deposit broking company, Currency Brokers International. Mr Ray Davies, Mr Ray Lewis, Mr Ken Mason, Mr Alec Mitchell, Mr John White and Mr Michael G. Young have become directors. Both companies are subsidiaries of Mayflower Holdings.

*

UNITED CABLE PROGRAMMES CONSORTIUM (UCP) has appointed Mr Nicolas Mellersh as chief executive on secondment from Rediffusion. His job is to create Britain's first nationally available premium cable movie channel. Mr Mellersh had been programming director of Rediffusion Consumer Electronics. UCP is a consortium of Rediffusion Consumer Electronics, The Plessey Company, Visionhire Cable, Rank Trident Satellite and Cable, and UIP Pay tv bv. UCP will be under British control.

*

ZEUS SECURITY GROUP has made the following appointments: Lord Chalfont has been made chairman, Mr Peter Hamilton, executive deputy chairman, and Mr. Don Grocott, managing director.

*

BANCO PORTUGUES DO ATLANTICO has appointed Mr Joao Vicente Ribeiro as deputy general manager of the London branch. Mr Ribeiro has been a deputy general manager of B.P.A. Paris branch.

*

Mr Cyril Townsend has been appointed chairman of CENTRE-FILE, computer bureau subsidiary of National Westminster Bank. A former managing director of Centre-file, he succeeds Mr Tom McMillan, who has also retired as a director of the bank and as deputy chairman of Lombard North Central, NatWest's instalment credit and leasing subsidiary.

*

Professor David T. Clark, head of the department of chemistry at Durham University, has been appointed director of ICI's heavy chemicals new science group, Runcorn, from October on the retirement of Dr Roger K. Laird.

*

Dr William C. Mott has joined the partnership of BUCKMASTER & MOORE, stockbrokers.

*

Mr Robert Kay, vice-president, CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, has become manager, UK institutional banking, in addition to manager, financial industries and products group. He succeeds Mr Dennis Goggin, vice-president and assistant general manager, who has returned to New York to become Worldwide insurance executive.

*

Mr J. W. H. Morgan has been appointed deputy chairman of PETBOW HOLDINGS. He was an executive director of The General Electric Company. Mr Sydney Burrell has been appointed joint managing director. He was chief executive of a number of GEC subsidiaries. Mr Edward Bird has also been appointed joint managing director.

*

TRUSTHOUSE FORTE has appointed Mr G. B. Chiandetti, Mr Donald Durban and Mr Dennis Hearn as joint deputy chief executives of the group.

*

The holding board of the CHARLES BARKER GROUP has appointed Mr Antony Snow as chairman. He replaces Mr Julian Wellesley, who is leaving the company.

*

Mr Alastair G. Lang has been elected to the board of MOBIL OIL COMPANY. Mr Lang joined Mobil in 1958. In 1975, he was appointed general manager, industrial, with responsibility for sales of fuels, lubricants and special products to industrial and commercial customers.

*

BRITISH RAILWAYS board has appointed Mr Bernard John Dunn as director of funds. Since 1976, Mr Dunn has been assistant director of finance at the National Water Council.

*

BCL (British Cellophane) has appointed Mr Lindsay Fortune, a main board director, as managing director in charge of converter companies in Europe and Nigeria. He also has development responsibilities for the Middle East, northern Africa and North America. He will be based at Bristol and is also responsible for Colodense Liquid Packaging, BCL's company producing bag-in-box systems. He succeeds Mr A. O. Collinson who will be taking up a new main board appointment within BCL's packaging operations. Mr G. W. Longney, managing director of the Wrightcel Group (BCL's converter operation in Australasia), will in addition be responsible for BCL's converter companies in southern Africa with development responsibilities for the Pacific basin.

*

Mr Michael C. J. Jackaman became chairman of BRITVIC following the retirement of Mr George Inman. He is chairman of Showerings, Vine Products and Whiteways and a director of Allied-Lyons. Mr Eric B. Colwell has been appointed deputy chairman. He is managing director of Victoria Wine Company and a director of Allied-Lyons.

*

Associated British Ports Holdings has appointed Mr John R. Smith as a director of ABPH's port operating subsidiary, ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS. He was personnel director.

*

Mr F. B. Cerby has been appointed chairman of PRUDENTIAL PENSIONS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Prudential Corp.

*

Mr R. B. Jane and Mr F. L. Sanderson have been appointed joint managing directors of the marine division of J. H. MINET AND CO.

*

Dr John A. Roberts, group managing director of Ruberoid, has been appointed chairman of CAMREX (HOLDINGS) in succession to Mr Stanley J. Clarke, who has resigned.

*

Sir George Kenyon has retired from the board of THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP and from the boards of its two banking subsidiaries. Sir George was chairman of Williams and Glyn's Bank for five years and was succeeded by Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of British Aerospace.

*

Mr Roland Magnin has been appointed managing director of RANK XEROX. He succeeds Mr Paul Allaire, who returns to the U.S. as senior vice-president and chief staff officer of XEROX CORP. Mr Magnin was a director of ITT in France before joining Rank Xerox France in 1968 as financial controller. Mr Magnin will be responsible for the operations of the Rank Xerox Group in 80 countries throughout the world.

*

Following the retirement of Mr Horace Fielder (general manager, housing and planning), Mr Malcolm Hughes has been appointed general manager (market planning) and Mr Tim Melville-Ross, general manager (housing) at NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY.

*

Mr James S. Hannah, has been appointed group managing director of the metals group, SWAN HOLDINGS, Cannock. He was a main group board director of Aurora, chairman of Aurora Steels and chief executive of the metals and tools division.

*

Mr Peter Graham is to be chairman of the CROWN AGENTS for Overseas Governments and Administrations and of the Crown Agents holding and realisation board in succession to Sir Sidney Eburne who is retiring. Mr Graham will take up the appointment on October 1 and will serve on a part time basis. Sir Sidney's present appointment, due to end on June 30, has been extended to September 30, also on a part time basis. Mr Graham, recently retired as chief executive and group managing director of the Standard Chartered Bank. He will become deputy chairman of Standard Chartered in September.

*

The Governor of the Bank of England has appointed Mr Martin W. Jacomb, a vice-chairman of Kleinwort Benson, to be deputy chairman of the COUNCIL FOR THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY and deputy chairman of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers in place of Sir Alexander Johnston who has retired. Mr Jacomb is chairman of the City Capital Markets Committee.

*

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has appointed Mr Charles S. Rutherford, formerly manager of its clearing department, as cashier at its head office. He succeeds Mr John M. Sanders who has retired.

*

Sir William Mather has retired from the chairmanship of COMPAIR but remains on the board of the parent company IC Gas (Imperial Continental Gas Association). He is succeeded as chairman of CompAir by Mr Dermot de Trafford, deputy chairman of IC Gas and also chairman of the Calor Group. Joining the CompAir board are Mr F. E. Zollinger, chairman of IC Gas, Mr J. B. McGrath, managing director of CompAir Construction and Mining, and Mr D. R. Cutler who is appointed finance director in succession to Mr John Bruce who has retired.

*

Mr Ron Peet, LEGAL AND GENERAL'S group chief executive, retires on June 30 1984, after 32 years with the Legal and General group, the past 12 as chief executive. He will be invited to join the board as a non-executive director on his retirement. Mr Peet will be succeeded as group chief executive by Mr T. Joe Palmer, at present general manager (international) who will become deputy group chief executive from January 1 1984.

*

Mr Roderick Collins of Trade Development Bank, London, has been appointed managing director of AEIBC ASSET MANAGEMENT. He will continue to be a manager of Trade Development Bank and head of its investment department. AEIBC Asset Management is a wholly owned subsidiary of American Express International Banking Corp.

*

H. SAMUEL has appointed Mr A. P. Dignum as managing director. He was assistant managing director of Dixons. Mr R. Collingwood and Mr S. R. Gentilli have relinquished their duties as joint managing directors but remain as chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

*

Two appointments have been made to the board of SHOWERINGS VINE PRODUCTS AND WHITEWAYS division of Allied-Lyons. They are Mr David Beatty, managing director of Harveys of Bristol and Mr Michael Staton, managing director of Vine Products.

*

John Mowlem and Co. has integrated its building and civil engineering operating units in the North-East and east Midlands into its existing building construction company located in Leeds, MOWLEM NORTHERN, and the following have been appointed to the board: Mr C. J. Hancock, chairman; Mr J. C. Gains, managing director; Mr P. Daynes, regional construction director, Yorkshire and Humberside; Mr H. R. Hollis, regional construction director for the North-East; and Mr C. Stevenson, commercial director.

*

Mr Alan Stote, chief executive of the BTS Group, Halesowen, is to become chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council in January 1984. He will succeed Mr Jeremy Pope, managing director of Eldridge Pope and Co., Dorchester brewers.

*

Mr Michael Bowers, currently regional co-ordinator for the Western Hemisphere in British Petroleum's head office, is to be chief executive of the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) from September 5.

*

Mr Steen Steincke, senior vice-president and a member of the executive committee, Nordic Investment Bank, Helsinki, has been appointed general manager of DEN DANSKE BANK, London, from October 1. He has been with Den Danske Bank since 1974. He was a general manager and head of the Danish department in Scandinavian Bank, London, from 1980 to 1982. Mr Steincke succeeds Mr Per F. Møller, who has been responsible for the start-up of the London operation. Mr Møller will return to Copenhagen.

*

Mrs Rosalind Gilmore has joined NATIONAL GIROBANK to succeed Mr Harold Robson, as director of marketing later in the year. She was previously with the World Bank, the Treasury and Dunlop.

*

Mr Paul Walsh has been appointed a director of HILL SAMUEL & COMPANY.

*

HENRY ANSBACHER AND COMPANY has appointed Mr Lindsay Smith a director. Mr Strachan MacDonald has become international manager. Mr Michael J. Skinner has been appointed a director of Ansbacher Leasing and Ansbacher Finance.

*

Mr Win Bischoff, a director of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Company and head of the finance division, is to become chairman of J. HENRY SCHRODER WAGG & COMPANY and a director of its parent SCHRODERS on October 1. He will succeed Mr John Hull who retires after six years as chairman of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Company on September 30. Mr Hull will continue as a joint deputy chairman and director of Schroders and a director of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Company. Mr R. H. Beevor, Mr S. J. M. Brisby and Mr N. M. H. Jones have been appointed directors of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Company.

*

OVERSEAS CONTAINERS has made the following appointments: Mr A. G. Hatchett, deputy chairman, has been appointed joint managing director responsible for fleet management, administration and personnel. Mr A. J. Butterwick, director, has become joint managing director responsible for trades co-ordination. Mr R. F. Cornwell, director, has been appointed joint managing director responsible for Far East and Pacific Basin trades. Mr H. R. J. Hildyard, deputy chairman, has retired, while Mr J. M. Corbet-Singleton and Mr R. P. M. Wormal will retire at the end of August.

*

Mr Graham Hearne has been appointed group managing director of CARLESS, CAPEL & LEONARD. He was chief executive of Tricentrol and is a non-executive director of N. M. Rothschild & Sons. Mr Hearne takes over from Mr Alfred Levy who is retiring.

*

DOBSON PARK INDUSTRIES has made the following appointments: Mr G. J. Chibbett to be chairman of engineering division in addition to his current appointment as chairman of power tool division. Mr L. I. H. Dacey to be managing director and deputy chairman of Kango Wolf Power Tools. Mr P. L. Crook to be managing director of Markon Engineering Co. Mr J. T. Naylor to be managing director of Byron International.

*

TRICENTROL has made the following changes to the board and created an executive committee. Mr William Grassick is joining the board as a non-executive director. His position as executive deputy chairman has been assumed by Mr Roger Smith. The members of the executive committee are: Mr James Longcroft, chairman and chief executive, Tricentrol; Mr Roger Smith, deputy chairman, Tricentrol; Mr Arnold Brackenridge, president, Tricentrol Holdings Inc; Mr John Baitt, managing director, Tricentrol Oil Corp; Mr Meg Annesley, managing director, Tricentrol Oil Trading; Mr Nigel Turnbull, chief financial officer, Tricentrol.

*

Mr Jeffrey M. Sterling has been appointed as a non-executive deputy chairman of P & O.

*

Mr David Moss, a director of Barclays Bank Trust Co and of Barclays Investment Management, has been appointed managing director of BARCLAYS INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT upon the retirement, through ill-health, of Mr Bill Hilling. Mr Donald Brydon, a director of Barclays Investment Management, has been appointed deputy managing director.

*

New chairman of BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES is Mr John D. Milne, who will continue as group managing director. He succeeds Sir Rowland Wright, who will remain on the board as a non-executive director.

*

Mr A. Sherazee has been appointed chairman and chief executive of BLACKFRIARS INSURANCES, a subsidiary of Unilever, in succession to Mr J. A. Dixon.

*

Mr Trevor J. Franks has been appointed managing director of TRICOOL ENGINEERING CO. A founder member of the company in 1978, he was previously technical director, and will retain this responsibility. Mr Rob Dewane has been promoted to the new post of production manager.

*

Mr Michael Burns has been appointed general manager and Mr Mitch Brown has been appointed a director and assistant general manager of EQUITY AND LAW (MANAGED FUNDS). Mr Burns is general manager of the parent company, Equity and Law Life Assurance Society and a director of both companies.

*

CHASE MANHATTAN LIMITED has appointed Viscount Bridport executive director of the new business team. Viscount Bridport joins Chase after 11 years with Kleinwort, Benson where he was a founder member of its capital markets team. Chase Manhattan has also appointed Mr Anthony Raikes as executive director from July 1. He will be responsible for Scandinavian relationships, and was previously a director with Credit Suisse First Boston and Orion Royal Bank. He replaces Mr Robert P. McDonald, who is returning to New York in August to join Chase Manhattan Capital Markets Inc.

*

partnership of R. L. STOTT & CO, members of the Stock Exchange in the Isle of Man.

*

Mr Derek E. Cook, chairman of Pilkington Brothers (South Africa) (Pty), has been appointed a director of PILKINGTON BROTHERS from January 1 1984, when he will become chairman of Pilkington Glass in the UK.

*

CIMEX has appointed Mr Michael Noakes as managing director. He was general manager, Reed Corrugated Cases.

*

Dr Bruce Farmer has become group managing director of the MORGAN CRUCIBLE CO in succession to Mr John Gilbert who has retired. Mr David Dunbar became chairman of thermic division. Mr Graham Swetman joined the group from the BOC Group in July to take over finance.

*

Mr John R. Owens has been appointed a deputy director-general of the CBI. He will succeed Mr Edward James, who is retiring. Mr Owens has been director-general of the Dairy Trades Federation since 1973. Before that he was managing director of Cape Asbestos Fibres.

*

Mr Alan B. Brooker, chairman and chief executive of Extel Group, has become chairman of BENN BROTHERS and Mr Michael P. Dineen, a director of Extel, has also joined the Benn board. Mr Malcolm G. Lowe, previously chairman of Benn, has joined the Extel board and remains chief executive of Benn.

UK COMPANY NEWS

June 1—August 8

W

Continued

Western Dooars

Improved profits before tax of £155,089 against £132,490 were shown by Western Dooars Tea Holdings for the year to the end of December 1982. The net dividend for the year has been held at 4p, with earnings per £1 share shown as rising from 7.75p to 11.48p. Profits after tax of this investment holding company, which is 49.92 per cent held by Lawrie Plantation Holdings, improved from £92,929 to £133,959.

Western Motor

Pre-tax losses at Western Motor Holdings were cut from £487,000 to £396,000 in 1982. No dividend is again being paid on ordinary or "A" ordinary shares.

Turnover of this management holding company was little changed at £35.67m (£35.3m), and trading profits were down from £1.38m to £1.25m.

The pre-tax loss was after depreciation of £679,000 (£908,000) and interest charges of £970,000 (£955,000). Tax was again £4,000. There were extraordinary debits of £413,000 (£203,000). The loss per 25p share was 18.86p (21.87p) and the net asset value per share is shown as 206p (210p).

Westland well ahead

On the back of a £28.64m rise in sales to £152.82m interim pre-tax profits of helicopter and hovercraft manufacturer Westland more than doubled from £6.05m to £12.89m.

Lord Aldington, the chairman, says the half year figures, covering the six months to March 31 1983, should not be taken as a true reflection of the full year outturn.

Nonetheless, the net interim dividend is being increased by 0.25p to 3p per 25p share—a final of 4.75p was paid for the 1981-82 year when pre-tax profits

Westland chairman, Lord Aldington, who reported more than doubled half year profits of £12.9m

totalled £23.91m (£27.35m).

Attributable profits emerged £6.41m ahead at £8.43m after deducting £3.87m (£1.21m) for tax, £588,000 (£1.2m) for minorities and 1.61m last time as extraordinary debits.

Stated earnings per share for the half year amounted to 14.2p (6.1p).

West's Group Intnl.

A fall from £1.54m to £492,000 in pre-tax profits is reported by West's Group International, formerly WGI, for the year to March 27, 1983. Turnover of this Wilmslow-based construction and engineering group, was little changed at £57.24m against £57.59m.

Trading profits were lower at £1.17m (£2.19m), and a breakdown shows civil engineering increased its share from £1.59 to £1.84m, process engineering incurred losses of £881,000 (£407,000 profits) and industrials improved from £193,000 to £213,000.

The pre-tax figure was after interest charges of £681,000 (£648,000). Tax for the year was considerably lower at £191,000 (£744,000). Extraordinary credits of £770,000 (£1.1m debit) pushed the attributable profit to £1.07m (£304,000 loss).

The final dividend is cut from 5.4p to 4.2p — no interim was paid this time, so the total payout is halved from 8.4p net. Earnings per share were lower at 3.8p compared with 10.1p.

Whatlings

Turnover of Whatlings, civil engineer and building contractor, showed little change at £10.82m (£10.83m) in the six months to March 31 1983 and pre-tax profits turned in at £136,000 against £167,000.

Tax took £21,000 (£17,000) for lower earnings of 2.87p (3.75p) per 25p share but, with the directors of the opinion that the results position will improve in the second half, the net interim dividend is being raised from 1p to 1.25p.

Last year a total 2.5p was paid from profits of £693,000.

Wheeler's Rests.

With turnover up from £7.25m to £8.24m, pre-tax profits of Wheelers' Restaurants recovered by £24,000 to £331,000 for the year to end-April 1983. The dividend is being increased from 5.88p to 6.12p net per 10p share by a final of 4.57p.

Wheway Watson

Pre-tax losses of Wheway Watson Holdings, chainmaker, engineer and forger, were reduced from £793,000 to £398,000 for the 12 months ended April 2, 1983, out of an 18 month period. Turnover was little changed at £18.77m, against £18.28m.

Directors say they hope to pay a nominal dividend in December —for the year ended March 31, 1982 there was a 0.05p (same) distribution.

Pre-tax figure was struck after interest of £527,000 (£890,000) and exceptional debits of £154,000 (£111,000), which were mainly rationalisation and redundancy costs.

Again there is no tax, but there were extraordinary debits of £98,000 (nil) being the loss on sale of vacated premises. Loss per share is given as 1.4p, compared with 2.79p.

Whitecroft

After rising from £1.57m to £2.43m at halfway, Whitecroft, textiles, building supplies and engineering concern, finished the year to March 31, 1983 ahead by 49 per cent at £5.3m pre-tax, against £3.57m. Turnover increased from £80.95m to £84.3m.

After tax, £1.5m (£1.1m), earnings per 25p share are shown as 18.49p (11.83p) and the dividend is stepped up to 5.4p (4.5p) net with a final payment of 3.75p.

A divisional analysis of turnover and profits shows: textiles £19.62m (£19.85m) and £2.5m (£1.46m); building supplies £46.39m (£44.46m) and £1.94m (£974,000); engineering — lighting £12.46m (£9.75m) and £2.36m (£2.04m); other £5.83m (£6.89m) and £393,000 loss (£317,000 profit); parent company £1.1m loss (£1.22m loss).

Tax took £1.5m (£1.1m) and after minority interests, £2,000 (£6,000) and extraordinary debits £523,000 (£473,000) the attributable balance was £3.28m (£1.99m) of which dividends will absorb £1.18m (£1m).

Net tangible assets were 129.27p (111.63p) per share.

Whittington Eng.

With taxable profits for the year to March 31, 1983 ahead from £86,000 to £98,000, Whittington Engineering Co. is raising its dividend total from 3.5p to 4.2p net with an increased final of 2.8p. Earnings per 25p share improved from 4.15p to 4.88p.

Turnover was marginally higher at £1.17m (£1.11m). Pre-tax profits were struck after distribution and administration costs of £539,000 (same) and included rental income of £28,000 (£17,000) and investment income of £10,000 (£6,000). Tax took £39,000 (£36,000).

Widney picks up

Widney, general engineer, is back in profit in the half year ended March 31, 1983, with £4,000, compared with a loss of £142,000, from sales of £2.39m (£2.13m). No dividends will be paid on preference or ordinary shares.

Henry Wigfall

Taxable losses of electrical goods, furniture and fashion wear retailer Henry Wigfall and Son were cut from £3.72m to £977,000 in the year to March 26 1983. Rationalisation and reorganisation of retail outlets caused a fall in turnover of £1.83m to £40.58m.

The year's dividend is again being omitted — losses per 25p share are given well down at 18.8p (71.5p).

Trading profits amounted to £346,000 (losses £1.38m). Interest charges were cut from £2.34m to £1.32m.

There was again no tax charge and after preference dividends of £1,000 (same) the retained losses came to £978,000 (£3.72m).

Wiggins Group

Despite a leap in turnover from £19.82m to £43.44m, taxable profits of Wiggins Group, contractor and estate developer, were little changed at £711,000 for the year ended March 31 1983, compared with £705,000.

Slow development market has postponed some profits into the current year, which has started well. The directors say that trading is encouraging.

After tax of £109,000 (£84,000) profits were £602,000 (£621,000) or 7.4p (9.5p) per share. The dividend is increased from 3p to 3.4p net with a final of 2.15p.

Willaire Systems

Manufacturer of environmental control equipment, Willaire Systems, suffered taxable losses of £256,000 for the year ended March 31 1983, compared with profits of £87,000 for the previous 15 months. Turnover amounted to £2.11m, against £1.42m.

After a tax credit of £42,000 (£23,000 charge) and an extraordinary debit of £91,000 (£9,000 credit), the attributable figure was £305,000 losses (£73,000 profits).

The improvement in trading anticipated at the midway stage did not materialise, directors of this USM quoted company state.

Willoughby's

Greatly reduced pre-tax losses, down from £265,246 to £25,175, are reported by Willoughby's Consolidated, rancher and landowner, for the six months to March 31 1983. Comparatives have been re-stated. Willoughby's is a subsidiary of Lonrho.

The company incurred losses of £90,260 against £388,601, but associates made profits of £65,085 compared with £123,355. Tax was considerably lower at £31,112 (£65,163), and minorities accounted for £9,034 (£18,816). No interim dividend is again payable—last year's total was 3.35p paid as a final.

Winterbottom Energy

For the current year ending November 30, 1983 Winterbottom Energy Trust is forecasting at least maintenance of the 0.65p dividend, and is holding the interim at 0.2p.

In the six months ended May 31, 1983, gross income has moved up from £204,295 to £291,741, and the amount available for ordinary holders from £23,941 to £64,015, to give earnings of 0.27p (0.1p) per share.

At May 31, net asset value per share was 71.4p after prior charges at par and 73.6p with those charges at market value. This is an increase of 27.3 per cent since the last year-end. In the portfolio U.S. and Canada oil and gas production represents 41.6 (45.9) per cent, U.S. oil service 22.6 (28.8) per cent, integrated U.S. domestic companies 10.1 (4.8) per cent, and deposits and net current assets 9.4 (5.4) per cent.

Wintrust ahead

Improved pre-tax profits of £2.15m against £1.93m have been produced by Wintrust, banker, for the year to March 31, 1983. The directors point out that there is no exposure to bad debts arising from international loans. They say profits for the first three months of the current year are again at record levels, and they have every expectation that this will be reflected in profits for the full year.

The final net dividend has been been proposed at 2.6p against 2.35p making 3.91p (3.55p). Earnings per 20p share are given as rising 19 per cent from 11.79p to 14.01p.

Gross assets moved ahead from £74.5m to £83.5m. Group liquidity is described as "extremely strong" with 51 per cent of assets in cash or equivalent.

Jonas Woodhead

With second-half taxable losses of £859,000, compared with £718,000, vehicle suspension specialist Jonas Woodhead and Sons ended the year to March 31 1983 with a rise in losses from £2.12m to £3.04m.

Losses per 25p share are given as 21.1p (15p), and the year's dividend is being maintained at a nominal 0.1p net.

Turnover slipped from £62.7m to £61.07m, while the taxable losses were struck after interest charges, less investment income, of £1.46m (£1.32m). Last time there were also exceptional rationalisation costs of £514,000. Tax took £63,000 (£90,000) and there were extraordinary reorganisation costs of £2.34m (nil).

Wyndham Eng.

Despite a rise in turnover from £266,686 to £590,371, steel fabricator and general machinist Wyndham Engineering fell further into the red in the year to March 31 1983 with taxable losses of £36,893 compared with £28,590.

However, the year's dividend is being maintained at 1p net per 25p share.

Tax took £3,107 (£11,647) and there were minority interests of £8,394 (nil).

Y

Yeoman Investment

Net revenue of Yeoman Investment Trust improved from £401,654 to £416,837 in the first six months to June 30 1983. Gross revenue edged up from £702,080 to £705,809.

Tax took £200,435 (£206,928). The interim dividend per 25p share is maintained at 2.5p net —last year's total was 7.25p.

Yorkgreen Invts.

On higher turnover of £1.17m, compared with £777,694, holding company Yorkgreen Investments pushed its pre-tax profits up from £71,208 to £205,625 for the six months to April 30 1983.

There was an extraordinary credit net of estimated tax £131,748 (nil), representing the receipt of monies from the Stamfast pension fund in excess of contractual obligations of that fund. Earnings per 10p share before the extraordinary item amounted to 0.83p (1.11p) and at 2.67p (nil) after.

The figures for the six months include Stamfast's results (not shown in the 1982 figures) of which £145,866 was pre-acquisition profit before extraordinary expenses of £33,927 related to the acquisition.

The results of Tablex, whose year ends on July 31 and in which the group has a 14.72 per cent stake, have not been included.

York Trailer

Sales of York Trailer Holdings held steady at £11.53m, compared with £11.3m, for the six months to end-June 1983, but profits fell from £258,000 to £83,000. Interest charges took £174,000 (£315,000).

There is again no dividend—the last payment was in 1980.

Earnings for the half-year amounted to 0.04p (1.63p) per 10p share.

Youghal Carpets

Including interest charges of Ir£2.3m and extraordinary items Ir£0.5m, Youghal Carpets (Holdings) incurred a loss of £3.5m in 1982. The 1981 rationalisation programme and the 1982 cost-cutting drive were not sufficient tu counter the continuing losses arising from the under-occupation in the factories and the downturn in sales in all markets, home and overseas.

In the current year the company is ahead of target for the first six months and the board is convinced that unless some "totally unforeseen event of serious magnitude occurs," then Youghal should return to profit, however small, in 1983.

Z

Zygal Dynamics

A better performance in the second half, as expected, has been achieved by Zygal Dynamics. Profit before tax came to £130,000 for a total of £164,000 for the year ended March 31 1983, but this is £156,000 short of the 1981-82 result.

Turnover improved from £2.84m to £3.32m. After tax £28,000 (£69,000) the net profit is £136,000, compared to £251,000 which was subject to an extraordinary debit of £99,000. Earnings are shown at 3.7p (6.7p) and the dividend is held at 0.75p net.

ISSUE NEWS

RTZ rights raises £192m net

Rio Tinto-Zinc, in third largest rights issue ever, raised £192m net by one-for-six offer at 450p per share. Board expects to raise 1983 dividend by at least 1p per share to not less than 17p (first div increase since 1980). Issue was for development of oil and gas interests in the North Sea, and flexibility in making acquisitions. Issue was underwritten by Morgan Grenfell Kleinwort Benson and Rothschild. Brokers were De Zote and Bevan and Hoare Govett. The issue was taken up to the extent of over 93 per cent.

Sunleigh Electronics came to the USM by way of a placing of 4m shares at 10p each (par). The company was capitalised at £2.3m at the placing price.

Abingworth offer for sale of 4m shares at £3 each was more than twice oversubscribed.

In the Cifer offer for sale tender, the price was struck at the minimum price of 115p. It was marginally oversubscribed. Laporte Industries launched a rights issue to raise £20.8m gross pitched one for six at 216p.

The Renishaw offer for sale of 2.8m shares at minimum tender price of 80p was oversubscribed 7.5 times at or above that price. Total amount subscribed: £31.5m. Striking price was 150p per share, at or above which level the issue was covered 5.3 times.

Hartons Group made a one-for four rights issue of 5,358,954 ordinary shares to raise £½m. Brokers Phillips and Drew placed 2.15m shares in Cecil Gee on the USM at £1 per share.

Simulation Excel A.S., Norwegian high tech company raised NoKr17m (£1.5m) from UK institutional investors. Lazard Bros. did a private placing of 20,000 shares at NKr850 per share and dealings are permitted under rule 163(1)(g).

Nationwide Leisure came to USM by way of an introduction. Malaysia offered for sale £50m Loan Stock 1988 on a yield basis, 1 per cent plus the gross redemption yield on 10½ per cent Treasury Stock 1989. Issue arranged by Morgan Grenfell. Brokers were Greenwell and Rowe and Pitman.

Rowntree placed 17.5m new shares with institutional shareholders to raise £36m cash to help finance a £140m acquisition of Tom Foods.

Courtaulds rights issue met with 87.6 per cent acceptance. The balance was sold in the market at a net premium of 7.85p per share.

John Maunders Construction, a housebuilder based in the North West, went for a full Stock Exchange listing by way of an offer for sale by Henry Cooke Lumsden. Over 2.5m shares, representing about 43 per cent of the capital, were offered at 98p each, valuing the company at £5.85m. Of the £2.5m being offered, £1.5m represented new money raised for the expansion of the business. The offer was 50 times oversubscribed.

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club raised £1.15m by a rights issue on the basis of 10 new shares of £25 each for each existing share. The object was to reduce borrowings which at May 20 amounted to £4.36m. Directors proposed capital reorganisation, as a result of which the club will become a wholly owned subsidiary of new holding company Tottenham Hotspur plc. The issue met with an 81.4 per cent success. The directors plan to raise a further £3m by an offer for sale of ordinary shares and to apply to the Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary capital of the new company to gain a full listing. Proceeds would be used to repay bank term loan of £3.9m. This would take place after the start of the 1983-84 season. Brokers to the issue were Sheppards & Chase.

Tunstall Telecom, the leading manufacturer and supplier of elderly persons' emergency communications equipment joined USM through an offer for sale by tender of 3m shares—21 per cent of the capital—at a minimum price of 100p. The issue included 1m new shares to assist the group's development. In 1982 Tunstall made record profits of £478,000 pre-tax. The pre-tax outcome for the six months to March 1983 was £578,000, and £1.2m was forecast for the full year. The offer was handled by Hambros Bank. The offer was subscribed almost five times. Striking price fixed at 140p at which price the offer was subscribed over 3½ times, and Tunstall capitalised at about £20m.

Gilbert House Investments, a property investment group had 2,672,000 shares placed on the USM at 17.5p per share — 10 per cent of the existing capital—and on an historic p/e fully taxed of 99. No profit forecast was given but directors expect rental income of about £380,000 for the year to March 24 1984. Placing was arranged by A. J. Bekhor.

Offer for subscription of 3m participating redeemable preference shares in Mezzanine Capital Corporation at U.S.$10 per share. MCC is a newly-formed company set up to provide specialist investment in the acquisition merger and leveraged buy-out market, principally in the U.S. MCC was sponsored by Charterhouse Group. Following the offer, 9.9m shares were issued.

Simon and Coates arranged a private placing of 576,797 £1 ordinary shares approximately 22 per cent) in Etam with a number of institutions. Etam is a national retailer of womenswear and girlswear with 104 branches.

Cambrian and General Securities raised £10.28m by way of a rights issue of 15,444,201 new ordinary at 48p each, and 4,412,628 new capital shares at 65p per share. The ordinary issue was underwritten. Terms were 9 ordinary for every 10 shares, and three new capital shares for every five capital shares.

Brokers Laing and Cruickshank offered for subscription 1m ordinary shares of 5p each at 115 per share in Dutom Meditech. Under the new Business Expansion Scheme qualifying individual investors are able to claim income tax relief at their top rate. The shares issued represented 50 per cent of the post issue share capital, the remaining half being held by directors and associates.

Placing by Simon and Coats of 1.26m shares of 5p each at 111p of Polytechnic Marine on the USM, capitalising the company at £9,990,000. In the year to May 1983 Polytechnic made pre-tax profits of £702,000, putting the shares on an historic fully-taxed p/e of 29.68. No new money was raised by the placing for the company.

Stock Beech placed 1,314,773 shares in Thermal Scientific at 83p on the USM. The placing represented 32.9 per cent of the 4m shares of 25p each in TS, which at the placing price was capitalised at £3.32m. Of the shares placed, 1.1m were issued by the company to raise £790,000 after expenses. TS, which is a newly-formed holding company is projecting a pre-tax profit of not less than £440,000 for the year to March 1984.

Celltech raised £6.1m net of expenses by the issue of 3.6m new ordinary of £1 each at £1.75 per share. Existing shareholders subscribed for 1.8m shares, the balance being privately placed by Baring Bros. The BTG has agreed to sell 400,000 existing ordinary at £1.75 each, which reduced its shareholding in Celltech to 28 per cent after the placing.

S. G. Warburg placed 7m shares in Mercantile House at £7.25, with city institutions.

Statham Duff Stoop placed 2.4m shares, 20 per cent of the equity, at 25p each to raise £600,000 for the Promotions House on its arrival on the USM. Directors forecast pre-tax profits of £320,000 from the new shares placed—was used in the purchase and fitting out of new showrooms. Brokers were Greenwell.

Application made for a listing of the £10m of 10 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each in Weir Group. These were issued as part of the capital reconstruction which took place in April 1981.

Offer for subscription of up to 2m shares at 210p each in Neighbourhood Stores by brokers Greig Middleton. The offer attracted applications totalling 3.8m shares.

Allied Plant rights issue of £1,774,667 10 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1985/1986 taken up by shareholders to the extent of 31.7 per cent.

Technology for Business arrived on the USM by way of an offer for sale by Greene and Co of 750,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at 100p per share. At the offer price, the company was capitalised at £3m.

International Signal and Control, the U.S. electronic systems company which obtained a listing on the London Stock Exchange in October last year, is buying the Marquardt Company, a defence contractor based in California, for $43.5m in cash.

ISC is funding the purchase through the offer for sale by tender of 34.6m shares at a minimum price of 125p per share. The offer will be preceded by a one-for-one scrip issue. ISC issued 24.3m new shares, sufficient to fund the purchase of Marquardt, and the balance of the offer for sale represented the disposal of existing shares by ISC directors.

Marquardt is a subsidiary of CCI Corporation of Oklahoma. Financial advisers to the offer, which was underwritten, were Robert Fleming and Co.

Lasmo offered for subscription by tender £20m of 9¾ per cent cumulative redeemable preference shares of £1 each, dated 1996 at a minimum price of 100p per share. Proceeds to be used to repay short term borrowings.

Transport Development Group issued £10m of unsecured loan stock 2008. The stock on issue was to bear interest at 12¼ per cent.

USM company First Talisman Investments called on shareholders for £437,750 by way of a three-for-five rights issue at 34p per share. Controlling shareholder Towngrade renounced its entitlement leaving it the beneficial owner of 69.6 per cent of Talisman. At the same time, Talisman acquired 13 freehold London properties at a cost of £2.15m.

Invent Energy Holdings came to the USM by way of an introduction, following a one-for-one rights issue at 175p per share to raise about £14m net of expenses. Invent's major shareholder, Triton-North Sea, subscribed for 5.9m out of its rights entitlement of 6m shares.

Aaronite Group came to the USM. Lazard Brothers and Rowe and Pitman arranged the placing of 1.3m shares at 115p each, amounting to 24 per cent of the total equity. Aaronite is the UK's leading specialist in passive fire-proofing. In the five years to October 1982 profits before tax have grown from £156,000 to £455,000. The placing capitalised the company at over £6m. Directors forecast profits of not less than £600,000 for year to October 1983.

J. Henry Schroder Wagg arranged the placing of £30m 12¾ per cent debenture stock 2008 of Westland. The gross redemption yield at the issue price of £99.124 per cent was 12.489 per cent.

The first publicly quoted multi-currency offshore fund to specialise in deep discount fixed interest securities was launched by Lazard Brothers. Lazards offered for subscription up to 25m participating redeemable preference shares of 1 cent each in the Diversified Bond Fund at U.S.$10 per share.

Sheraton Securities Intl, a USM property company raised £2.28m by way of a rights issue of 22.8m shares at 10p per share.

SCUSA Inc the U.S. security alarm services subsidiary of Security Centres Holdings came to the USM after 11.3m shares were offered for sale at 85p, of which 7.3m were available for preferential subscription by shareholders of Security Centres. Offer was 36 times oversubscribed.

CPU Computers offered 4.5m shares at a minimum price of 105p by tender, prior to a USM quote. The company made pre-tax profits of £912,000 in the year to June 30 1982 and forecasts not less than £1.35m, for the current year. Striking price was 130p per share capitalising CPU at over £20m. The offer received 4,000 applications in respect of 17m shares, and was covered 2.8 times at or above the striking price.

Ecclesiastical Holdings made an issue of £8m debenture stock 2019 at a gross redemption yield of 2.5 per cent above that of 13¼ per cent Treasury Stock 2004/08.

Allied Lyons issued £75m of debenture stock 2009, payable as to £25p per £100 nominal on acceptance and the balance by November 29 1983. Gross redemption yield at a margin of 1.25 per cent above that of 13.5 per cent Treasury Stock 2004/08.

Beecham Group raised £203m gross by one-for-ten rights issue at 310p per share. Directors intend to maintain dividend rate on the increased capital. Gearing had risen to 54 per cent by year end, and issue will enable group to improve ratio by repaying part of existing borrowings.

Texas Petroleum's shares were admitted to the official list in London. The listing followed completion of a rights issue of 50.6m shares at 20p each. Approximately 51 per cent was taken up, and the balance was subscribed by the sub-underwriters. The issue was underwritten by Kleinwort Benson. Brokers were Henderson Crosthwaite.

General Foods, the largest food and beverage concern in the U.S., obtained a London Stock Exchange listing for its shares. Arranged by County Bank, with Rowe and Pitman as brokers.

Volvo announced that 750,000 "B" free shares, representing 2 per cent of the existing capital, has been placed on the UK Stock Exchange, at a price of SEK 405 per share, to raise the equivalent of £26m. Underwriters were Hill Samuel, Enskilda Securities and Svenska Intl. Brokers were Greenwell and Cazenove.

Biomechanics Intl came to the USM by way of a placing of 3m shares of 10p each at 50p per share, by brokers Northcote. As a result of R & D effort during the last five years Bio has incurred a succession of small trading losses. It was not able to make any firm forecasts of future results.

J. Crowther Group raised £900,000 by a one-for-one rights issue of 3.6m shares at par (25p). Board expects to propose total dividends on the enlarged capital of not less than 1p net per share for 1983.

United Leasing became the first leasing company ever to obtain a full listing, with an offer for sale by tender of 4,107,142 shares at a minimum price of 140p each, capitalising United at £18.8m. Almost 80 per cent of the shares offered are new shares. In the five and a half years to March 1983 profits before tax rose from £300,000 to £1.53m. The issuing house was Barclays Merchant Bank, and the brokers were Phillips and Drew. It became the first new issue to flop since Britoil, when Barclay's Merchant Bank announced that underwriters would be taking up over 50 per cent of the offer. All applications were allotted in full at the minimum tender price.

The second leasing company to come to the USM was Southern Business Leasing. Samuel Montagu placed 2,385,000 of its ordinary shares of 10p at 85p per share. Capel Cure Myers were brokers to the issue. The placing represented 17.1 per cent of Southern's capital—1.5m of the shares were new which raised some £924,000 for Southern.

United Parcels raised £10.5m by a one-for-five rights issue at 100p per share. Proceeds partly to repay borrowings and the balance invested for use in expansion plans. There was not a profits forecast but company expects to pay total dividend of not less than 2.8p per share on the increased capital.

Kenning Motor Group raised £9.5m gross by a one-for-three rights issue at 90p per share. Forecast profit before tax for the year to end September of about £11m, of which £6.5m is expected to be earned from UK and European operations. Directors intend to recommend a final dividend of not less than 4p (3.75p) on increased capital, making 6.5p per existing ordinary share, an 18.2 per cent increase.

Henderson Administration made an offer for sale by tender of 2.6m ordinary shares at a minimum price of 325p per share. Brokers were Cazenove and Baring Brothers the bank. Henderson is an investment management company which runs 30 unit trusts and 30 pension funds.

Fleet Holdings launched a rights issue to raise approximately £18m on the basis of 2-for-5 ordinary shares at an issue price of 78p per share. The rights issue was conditional on shareholders' approval of the caancellation of Fleet's £15m 8 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1997 and to the new shares being admitted to the Official List. Kleinwort, Benson underwrote the issue, brokers were L. Messel.

Dominic Lawson summarises the new issues

of £350,000 for the year to December 1983, and a net dividend of 0.7p per share. Following the placing, 80 per cent of the shares will be held by T and P Investments, a private company controlled by two of the directors.

Baring Brothers underwrote a £2.9m rights issue for Chamberlain Phipps. The issue was on a one-for-four basis at 48p per share. Messel were brokers. Maintained payout was forecast on the enlarged capital.

An attempt at a £1m private placing of shares in the Thoroughbred Investment Company failed to attract sufficient institutional interest. The managers now intend to make a direct offer to the public.

Fleming American Investment Trust raised about £19.3m net (£19.8m gross) by a rights issue of 7 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1999 at par on the basis of £120 of stock for every 100 ordinary shares, and £60 of stock for every £100 of 5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1987-92. Issue underwritten by Robert Fleming. Brokers to issue were James Capel. Board wishes to continue the policy of building up its unlisted investments. Dealings begin in the stock, nil paid on August 23 and the offer will expire on September 14.

Issue of 750,000 £1 shares in Ascot Cottage Thoroughbreds, which is to invest in top quality racehorses. Part of the proceeds of the issue will be used to purchase a stud complex. The intention is to apply for a USM quote in three to five years' time. Meanwhile, the company believes that it will qualify for tax relief under the Business Expansion Scheme.

Atlantic Assets Trust is offering its shareholders, by way of rights shares in Ivory & Sime and in Personal Assets on the *basis: One Ivory & Sime ordinary* of 0.1p at 22p for every complete 20 Atlantic ordinary shares of 25p each. One Personal Assets ordinary of 12.5p at 22p per share for every complete 20 Atlantic ordinary of 25p each. The offers, which comprise 25 per cent and 41 per cent respectively of the issued ordinary share capitals of Ivory & Sime and Personal Assets, have not been underwritten. Following completion of the offers, both I & S and PA will apply for full Stock Exchange listings.

Robert Fleming announced completion of private placing of ordinary shares, worth £1.44m, in Horsham-based Sigma Electronic Systems.

Gable House Properties moved to USM by way of a placing of 1.15m shares at 48p each, 22 per cent of the capital. At the placing price Gable was valued at about £2.5m. The issue, which was arranged by brokers Strauss Turnbull, raised £552,000 of which £336,000 was new money to be used for working capital.

Fidelity Radio raised almost £4.1m gross by way of a 1-for-3 rights issue at 145p per share. Proceeds were used to reduce short-term bank borrowings. Fidelity forecast that pre-tax profits for year to March 1984 would be not less than £2.2m, and intend to recommend for that year dividends of not less than 3p per share on the increased capital.

Metal Sciences came to the USM by way of an offer for subscription by the London Venture Capital Market of 10.8m shares at 11p each. At offer price MS was valued at £2,376,000. Issue was approximately 100 times oversubscribed. Brokers were Statham Duff Stoop.

South-east based electrical retailer, Rayford Supreme Holdings came to the USM with a £12m price tag. Over 1,169,800 shares—20 per cent of the equity —were placed by County Bank at 205p each. The net proceeds

Group also intends to pursue its policy of acquiring compatible new businesses. Issue underwritten by Hill Samuel. Brokers are Wood Mackenzie and Cazenove. Rights issue taken up by 89.31.

Oldham Metropolitan Council issued £6m of 11.25 per cent redeemable stock 2010 placed with institutions. The stock is the result of the council exercising its option under a drop-lock loan agreement dated November 17, 1981.

Camputers, a Cambridge based manufacturer of microcomputers, raised £1m by a private placing of 6.4m shares at 17p a share, valuing the company at £4.3m. Directors forecast profits before tax for the year to March 31, 1983 of £750,000.

Edinburgh based financial services company, Adam and Co, which is anticipating a Bank of England licence to take deposits, offered 28,500 founder shares of £100 each at par.

SR Gent—offered for sale by tender 9m shares at a minimum price of 160p per share. Of the 9m shares, 3m are being issued by Gent, and 6m are existing shares sold in equal proportions by Mr P Wetzel and Mr P Wolf, joint chief executives of the company, who will each own 30.2 per cent of the shares following the offer for sale. Gent's arrival on the market for a full listing has been underwritten by S G Warburg, and brokers to the offer are W. Greenwell. Gent forecast pre-tax profits for the year to June 30 1983 of £5m. Gent designs and manufactures clothing predominantly for Marks and Spencer. The offer attracted 31,000 applications for a total of 49m shares. Striking price fixed at 190p, capitalising Gent at £68.4m.

F.T.-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

QUARTERLY VALUATION

The market capitalisations of the groups and sub-sections of the FT-Actuaries indices as at June 30, 1983, are expressed below in millions of pounds and as a percentage of the All-Share Index. Similar figures are also provided for the two preceding quarters.

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS (Figures in parentheses denote number of stocks)	Market capitalisation as at June 30, 1983 (£m.)	% of all share index	Market capitalisation as at Mar. 31, 1983 (£m.)	% of all share index	Market capitalisation as at Dec. 31, 1982 (£m.)	% of all share index
1 CAPITAL GOODS GROUP (207)	29,854.9	21.39	26,539.6	21.37	25,611.7	22.37
2 Buildings Materials (25)	4,452.5	3.18	4,179.8	3.37	3,833.4	3.35
3 Contracting, Construction (30)	2,416.2	1.73	2,360.4	1.90	2,212.8	1.93
4 Electricals (35)	13,401.4	9.60	11,174.8	9.00	11,809.4	10.31
5 Engineering Contractors (10)	584.8	0.42	528.1	0.42	517.3	0.45
6 Mechanical Engineering (64)	3,911.8	2.80	3,885.5	3.13	3,582.8	3.13
8 Metals and Metal Forming (10)	1,118.0	0.80	1,109.4	0.89	879.9	0.77
9 Motors (18)	777.5	0.56	646.3	0.52	514.9	0.45
10 Other Industrial Materials (17)	3,213.9	2.30	2,655.3	2.14	2,251.2	1.96
21 CONSUMER GROUP (200)	43,449.5	31.13	40,980.0	33.01	39,684.6	34.66
22 Brewers and Distillers (23)	7,085.2	5.07	6,598.7	5.31	6,822.5	5.96
25 Food Manufacturing (22)	5,731.3	[illegible]	5,590.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
26 Food Retailing	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
27 Health and Household Products	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
29 Leisure	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
32 Newspapers, Publishing	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
33 Packaging and Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
34 Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35 Textiles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
36 Tobacco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
39 Other Consumer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
41 OTHER GROUPS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
42 Chemicals	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
44 Office Equipment	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45 Shipping and Transport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
46 Miscellaneous	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
49 INDUSTRIAL GROUP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
51 Oils	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
59 500 SHARE INDEX (500)	104,208.1	74.66	92,455.5	74.46	86,778.0	75.79
61 FINANCIAL GROUP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
62 Banks	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
63 Discount Houses	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
65 Insurance (Life)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
66 Insurance (Composite)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
67 Insurance Brokers	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
68 Merchant Banks	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
69 Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
70 Other Financial	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
71 Investment Trusts	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
81 Mining Finance	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
91 Overseas Traders	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
99 ALL-SHARE INDEX (750)	139,550.5	100.00	124,164.6	100.00	114,495.4	100.00

MINING NEWS

June 1—August 8

A message of hope

Mining news has carried a message of hope that after two of the worst years on record for the extractive industries, recovery is on the way. The major U.S. natural resource companies have been reporting much reduced losses for the second quarter and, in some cases, a return to profitability thanks to higher base metal prices and cost-cutting programmes.

In the more exotic world of diamonds, De Beers' Central Selling Organisation has reported a further recovery in world diamond sales while sharply increased earnings have been achieved by the major producer of platinum group metals, South Africa's Rustenburg Platinum Holdings.

As far as gold is concerned, the exploration companies remain as active and optimistic as ever, particularly in Australia. But the South African producers have been finding the going less satisfactory against the background of a lack-lustre bullion price and the fear that costs, after having been well contained, may move higher.

Amax

The U.S. AMAX natural resource giant reports a second quarter loss of $21.2m following a loss of $48.7m in the first three months of the year. Lower earnings from molybdenum and reduced shipments of iron ore in the latest quarter were partly offset by the sale of nickel stocks together with higher silver prices, better profit margins on copper and reduced corporate expenses. If the world economic recovery continues Amax looks like being back to profitability before the year is out.

Anglovaal

Higher net profits for the June quarter are reported by three of the gold producers in South Africa's Anglovaal group, Hartebeestfontein, Eastern Transvaal Consolidated (ETC) and the sand retreatment operation Village Main Reef, while Loraine's net profits were one-third lower because of the lower gold price and the absence of any contribution from the state assistance scheme. The group's antimony and gold producing Consolidated Murchison boosted net profits to R1.54m from R994,000, while the copper and zinc producer Prieska produced net profits of R3.36m against R1.6m. The higher average rand gold price over the 12 months to June 30 gave Hartebeestfontein full-year net profits of R144.67m, up 40 per cent. ETC was more than doubled at R17.84m, and Village Main rose to R809,000 from R355,000. Better copper prices lifted Prieska, with 12-month net profits R9.27m higher at R10.87m.

Botswana RST

Helped by better prices for nickel and copper Botswana RST achieved an operating profit of P1.7m in the half-year to June 30 following a loss of P12.5m for the second half of 1982 which left a loss for the full year of P8.87m.

Charter Cons.

Earnings of Charter Consolidated for the year to March 31 have fallen to £34.9m (£37.6m) or 33.2p per share from 35.8p in the previous 12 months. The dividend total is maintained at 11p with a final of 7.25p. Operating profits of the subsidiaries have increased slightly but investment income has fallen partly because of poorer year for Johnson Matthey. Lower income from investments reflects previous sale of gilts and absence of dividend from Anglo Zimbabwe as a result of exchange controls. Lower realisations on investments follow the previous year's boost from the sale of Haw Par holding.

Denison Mines

Canada's Denison Mines diversified energy producer is maintaining good earnings. They amount to C$24m for the second quarter, making C$47m for the first half of the year, against C$17.4m a year ago. At the Toronto meeting Mr Stephen B. Roman, the chairman, said that the latest results reflected "excellent operation performance" at the Elliott Lake uranium division and in oil and gas output from the Casablanca field off Spain and the offshore fields in Greece.

Denison proposes to acquire Seagull Petroleum and create a class of preferred shares with a C$150m offering in mind.

Falconbridge

Canada's Falconbridge, the country's second-biggest producer of nickel after Inco, has reduced its second-quarter loss to C$7.3m. This brings the loss for the half year to C$29.4m, compared with C$29.1m in the equivalent period of 1982, when the total loss for the year amounted to C$85.3m. Increased sales of nickel and ferronickel have reduced inventories to minimum operating levels, but the company points out that, while the strengthening in metal markets that began in January is continuing, prices are not yet high enough to generate a profit.

The Canadian Brinco natural resource company, in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has a stake of 24 per cent, reports a first-half loss of C$2.41m, compared with a loss of C$7m in the equivalent period of 1982, when the loss for the full year amounted to C$28.8m after extraordinary debits of C$19.8m. The loss in the second quarter of this year fell to C$224,000.

Freeport McMoRan

Second quarter net income of Freeport-McMoRan amounted to $20.9m, making $42m for the first half compared with $49m for the same period of 1982 and the total for that year of $85.9m. Better earnings in the latest half-year were achieved at the metals and oil and gas division, but the agricultural minerals' profitability fell.

'Freddies'

Thanks to a credit arising from the reversal of the previous year's provision for possible losses on sharedealings, coupled with a lower tax charge, Free State Development and Investment net profit for the year to June 30 rose to R1.91m compared with R1.83m.

The final dividend is lifted by 2½ cents to 35 cents, making a total of 50 cents against 47.5 cents. Reflecting the strength of the company's predominantly gold investments, the net asset value per share has jumped to 1,057 cents from 502 cents a year ago.

Gencor row ends

The dispute between South Africa's Gencor and the state-controlled iron and steel producer Iscor, which has threatened the future of the Trans-Natal Coal Corporation's Hlobane colliery in northern Natal, has been resolved with a complicated exchange of assets.

The result of this series of deals, valued in total at more than R90m, is that Iscor ends up with control of Hlobane and Dunswart Iron and Steel, Trans-Natal acquires additional coal rights adjacent to one of its mines in the eastern Transvaal, while Gencor receives a controlling interest in Samancor through the transfer to it of 50.25 per cent of African Metals.

Iscor plans to offer the minority holders in Dunswart 185 cents per share to gain full ownership.

Full- and half-year results, respectively, are announced by the Gencor group's Sentrust and UC Investments, which have already announced that a merger is being considered. Sentrust reports net income for the year to June 30 1983 of R26.5m, compared with R23.3m in 1981-82. A final dividend of 50 cents makes a year's total of 100 cents against 94 cents.

UC Investments has raised its net profit for the six months to June 30 from R14.2m to R17.1m. The interim dividend is raised by 15 cents to 50 cents—a total of 130 cents was paid for 1982.

Hamersley Holdings

The Rio Tinto-Zinc group's Hamersley Holdings iron ore operation in Western Australia reports a sharp increase in first half net earnings to A$39.7m against A$25.5m in the same period of 1982. The main factor in the improvement has been the fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the U.S. dollar in which iron ore is priced. In addition Hamersley increased ore shipments by 6.7 per cent to 15.67m tonnes.

However, the company points out that the recently negotiated price reductions for the bulk of its contracts did not apply before April 1. The full impact of these lower prices will thus be felt in the results for the second half of the year.

It is stated that demand for iron ore is still running at the depressed levels of 1982 and that a large production surplus capacity continues to overhang the market. Hamersley's production has been adjusted more closely in line with sales and at the end of the half-year the amount of ore stockpiled was just over 15m tonnes.

Meanwhile, Hamersley is not declaring an interim dividend.

Hampton Gold

Profits of Hampton Gold Mining Areas, London-registered mining and finance house, for the year to March 31 1983 were much better than expected. Pre-tax profits of £2.46m compare with last year's £3.01m, and are well ahead of the £2.1m forecast in March at the time of the £17m rights issue. Tax charge sharply lower following higher capital spending on the development of the North Sea Balmoral oil field, and the Paringa gold joint venture with CSR in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Dividend as forecast 2.75p, making total 3.75p against 3p last time. Nickel royalties down 56 per cent due to lower price received by Western Mining. Earnings per share 16.57p, up from 13.68p. Group concentrating on five major areas of expansion—Australia, U.S., North Sea, coal and mining equipment. Most of £603m profit on sale of investments refers to sale of stake in WMC.

Inco

A second-quarter loss of U.S.$39.7m is reported by Canada's Inco. This follows a first-quarter loss of $76.9m, the company's worst on record. In the first quarter, the nickel giant had to absorb $61m in shut-down costs, which fell to $17m in the second quarter. The better performance in the second quarter resulted from reduced shut-down costs and slightly better nickel prices. It seems unlikely that the company will return to profits before the first quarter of 1984. Stocks are likely to fall further before then, owing to annual holidays, while the total debt has fallen in the first half of 1983 by $139m, thanks to the 6.6m share offering proceeds of $81m, which were used to reduce bank borrowings.

Jo'burg Cons.

Good cost control continued to be a feature of the current batch of quarterly reports from South Africa's gold mines, with a rise of just 1.1 per cent from Western Areas and a cut of 3 per cent from Randfontein Estates, both in the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment ("Johnnies") Group.

For the latter, lower working profits as a result of the lower average gold price were more than offset by the reduction in costs and a fall in the tax charge, following the near-doubling of capital spending to R29.5m. Net profits emerged 10.7 per cent higher at R50.2m.

Mr George Nisbet, chairman of both mines, said that capital spending at the two operations had been running behind schedule, and would continue at the higher level of the June quarter for the remainder of the year. This suggests a figure of around R120m for Randfontein, including R11m on the new Doornkop area, and about R48m for Western Areas.

The latter saw net profits slip 16 per cent to R10.41m, as even the policy of selling most output forward was unable to prevent a lower realised gold price. The policy will continue.

Killinghall Tin

The Malaysian Killinghall Tin reports a half-year net profit of M$2.37m compared with M$4.76m in the same period of last year. The interim dividend is cut to 9 cents gross. For 1982 there was an interim of 40 cents followed by a final of 10 cents.

The fall in profits reflects reduced sales in line with the International Tin Agreement restrictions which will also apply to second-half operations.

Lornex

The Rio Tinto-Zinc group's Lornex has continued to recover in the second quarter. Net earnings have expanded to C$3.65m from a modest C$93,000 in the first quarter. For all of 1982 there was a net loss of C$11.1m. Compared with the second quarter of 1982, when there was a net loss of C$4.89m, the latest quarterly profit reflects higher prices for copper and silver, increased production of molybdenum, and lower operating costs.

Newmont Mining

America's Newmont Mining, in which London's Consolidated Gold Fields has a stake of some 25 per cent, reports earnings of $15.82m, or 52 cents per share for the second quarter following a net $18.84m in the first three months of the year. The half-year total of $34.66m compares with $22.38m in the same period of 1982.

A regular quarterly dividend of 25 cents is declared.

Nippon Mining

A consortium of eight Japanese companies has withdrawn from the Sodimiza copper project in Zaire and sold its 80 per cent interest to the government for US$30m (£18.75m).

This sum, plus an additional $20m, will be paid by the government of Zaire to the Japanese companies over the next 15 years. The companies involved are Nippon Mining as leader, Sumitomo Metal Mining, Mitsubishi Metal, Mitsui Mining and Smelting, Dowa Mining, Furukawa, Nissho Iwai and Nissho Steamship.

Nippon Mining announced a rise of 27.7 per cent in net profits for the year to March 31 to Y1.31bn (£3.4m), and forecast a further rise to Y4bn in the current 12 months.

Meanwhile, Mitsui Mining and Smelting reported a net profit for the same period of Y157m, against a loss last time of Y5.5bn.

Noranda

Canada's Noranda has returned to profitability with the first quarterly earnings announced since the second quarter of 1981. The natural resource group—which has said it aims to make a small profit for 1983 if copper, aluminium and zinc prices rise—reports a second-quarter net profit of C$9.2m. This leaves a profit for the first half of the year of C$1.9m compared with a loss of C$75.4m in the equivalent period of 1982. The latest performance reflects better metal markets, plus the absence of strikes. A quarterly dividend of 12½ cents has been declared.

Palabora

THE Rio Tinto-Zinc group's Palabora copper mine in South Africa has raised first-half earnings to R18.85m from R15.18m in the first half of 1982, when the total for the year amounted to R27.23m. A further, second quarterly dividend of 10 cents maintains the half-year total at 20 cents. Palabora's higher earnings reflect a 9.6 per cent increase in copper sales, plus improved prices for the metal. The latest results also include revenue from a shipment of uranium but no further uranium deliveries are scheduled for the remainder of the year. So results for the second half are not expected to be as good, if copper prices (sales are based on London Metal Exchange quotations) and the rand-sterling exchange rate remain at current levels.

Phelps Dodge

America's main copper producer, Phelps Dodge, has returned to profitability in the second quarter with a modest net income of $300,000. This follows a first-quarter loss of $3.9m and a total loss for 1982 of $74.3m, after crediting $28.8m from the sale of tax benefits. The better results have reflected slightly higher copper prices, plus the benefits of the cost-reduction programme.

Asarco, the U.S. smelter and refiner of non-ferrous metals, reports a second-quarter net profit of $27.6m, making $43.7m for the half-year. Last year, the company lost a total of $38.7m. The latest profit, however, is largely accounted for by exchange gains. Mr Ralph L. Hennebach, the chairman, points out that basic industry, including non-ferrous metals, is making slower progress than the U.S. economy in general. Because of this lag, he feels, the outlook for the balance of the year should be viewed "conservatively."

Randfontein

The interim dividend of 400 cents a share declared by Randfontein Estates gold mine in the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment group ("Johnnies") represented an improvement on last year's interim of 300 cents, but nevertheless disappointed the share market and the price fell £6¾ to £89½ the following day. Last year's final was 800 cents, for a total of 1,000 cents. The same group's Western Areas paid an interim of 10 cents. There was no interim declaration last year, and the final of 10 cents was the sole payment.

Rio Algom

Rio Tinto-Zinc group's Canadian arm, Rio Algom, reports first-half earnings of C$24.1m against C$14.11m in the first half of last year. A three-for-one share split is proposed. The improved earnings reflect an improvement at the 68.1 per cent-owned Lornex mine which moved from losses to profits on a combination of higher prices for copper and silver coupled with increased production of molybdenum and lower operating costs. Uranium revenue also improved thanks to a 1983-86 supply contract secured by the Lisbon uranium mine in Utah. Rio Algom is to develop North America's only tin mine, subject to satisfactory financing and marketing agreements. The open-pit property, 45 km north-east of Yarmouth, south-west Nova Scotia, could be developed by the end of 1985 at a cost of about C$150m. To be named the East Kemptville mine the newcomer has estimated mineable ore reserves of 56m tonnes, sufficient for a working life of about 17 years. The mill would handle about 9,000 tonnes of ore a day to produce 4,500 tonnes of tin in concentrate annually. There would be by-products of 1,500 tonnes of copper in concentrate and 2,400 tonnes of zinc in concentrate.

Rustenburg

South Africa's Rustenburg Platinum Mines reports a sharp increase in earnings for the 10 months to the new financial year-end of June 30. They amount to R63.4m compared with R41m for the preceding 12 months. Earnings per share come out at 50.6 cents and a final dividend of 32.5 cents makes a total for the latest period of 45 cents compared with 35 cents for the previous 12 months.

The profit before provisions for the four months to June 30 amounted to R84.4m compared with R96.8m in the previous six months and R32.5m in the final six months of the year to last August.

Skytop Brewster

Agreement in principle has been reached whereby the U.S. Ingersoll-Rand is to acquire shares of Skytop Brewster from Consolidated Gold Fields for about $15m. The deal will give Ingersoll-Rand the name of the oil-rig company, its design rights and goodwill, but the property, plant and equipment is not being sold.

Sunshine Mining

Silver production by the U.S. company, Sunshine Mining, reached about 1.4m oz in the second quarter, the highest quarterly figure since 1942. Total production for the mines the company principally owns and operates was 1.6m oz in the quarter. The silver price averaged $12.14 per ounce during the period, compared with $6.25 in the second quarter of last year.

Sunshine's net profit for the quarter was $5.1m, against a loss of $5.15m a year ago. The net profit for the first half of this year comes out at $7.19m (including utilisation of a $1.93m tax loss carry-forward), against a loss of $5.62m in the first half of 1982.

Soquem

Societe Quebecoise d'Exploration Miniere (Soquem) showed a drop in earnings for the year to March 31 to $7.7m from $15.4m. Lower gold prices were blamed and a reduction in grade at Doyon gold mine in north-west Quebec. Company is recommending a stock underwriting, possibly with public participation, to finance development investments.

Uranerz

Bank of Montreal said a three-member banking syndicate comprised of itself as agent, Toronto Dominion Bank and Barclays Bank of Canada has completed a C$120m financing for a Uranerz Exploration and Mining joint venture in Saskatchewan's Key Lake uranium project.

Vogels rights

Vogelstruisbult has agreed to acquire 640,000 shares, or 20 per cent, in O'Okiep for R8.96m, or R14 per share. In order to finance the purchase, Vogels is to make a rights issue.

O'Okiep operates a number of copper mines and a smelter centred on Nababeep in Namaqualand.

TREND OF INDUSTRIAL PROFITS

ANALYSIS OF 90 COMPANIES

THE PACE of industrial profits recovery is being maintained, but the financial sector has slipped into reverse gear, according to the table below.

The figures are from the reports of 90 companies up to the end of April 1983. All the companies' financial years ended in the period between July 1 and September 30 1982. The figures are in £m and the corresponding figures for the previous year are given in brackets.

The decline in the financial sector's profits was chiefly due to the clearing banks, whose performance was burdened by heavy bad debt provisions. Outside that group, overseas traders showed the poorest performance overall, due to the effects of the world recession on their markets. However, none of the groups reported a loss.

The most notable advance came in capital goods, where the electricals industry swung sharply into profit on barely increased turnover. After a weak start, profits more than doubled in the motors sector—chiefly consisting of car distributors in this case—which also managed to improve margins.

On the consumer side, the worst figures came from newspapers and publishing, which slashed dividends accordingly. Meanwhile, stores and food retailing shared a significant upturn in profitability, thanks to more lively consumer spending. But this has yet to come through to the same extent in food manufacturing.

The figures do contain some distortions because the flow of company reports is far from regular. The closing months of last year, for instance, included well over twice as many companies' figures.

This can be seen in the stores sector, which in that period showed a 2 per cent profits increase based on 33 companies' results, while the table below shows a 45 per cent advance based on only three stores' figures.

INDUSTRY	No. of Cos.	Turnover (1)	Profits before Int. & Tax (2)	Pre-tax Profits (3)	% chnge	Tax (4)	Earned for Ordinary Dividends (5)	% chnge	Ord. dividends (6)	% chnge	Cash Flow (7)	Net Capital Employed (8)	Net Return on Cap % (9)	Net Current assets (10)
BUILDING MATERIALS	3	321.5 (265.4)	20.1 (15.0)	16.9 (12.0)	+40.8	5.6 (2.3)	11.0 (9.4)	+17.0	3.7 (3.1)	+19.4	13.4 (11.9)	129.7 (101.5)	15.5 (14.8)	63.4 (48.8)
CONTRACTING, CONSTRUCTION	5	407.7 (370.5)	32.0 (33.2)	19.1 (21.0)	−9.1	6.1 (6.8)	13.0 (14.2)	−8.5	4.6 (5.2)	−11.5	14.2 (14.4)	242.4 (215.2)	13.2 (15.4)	92.8 (88.3)
ELECTRICALS	3	768.8 (757.1)	59.0 (−9.8)	26.8 (−47.5)	+156.4	5.9 (5.4)	15.7 (−52.7)	+129.8	1.1 (0.7)	+57.1	65.2 (−6.6)	324.8 (337.2)	18.2 (—)	40.7 (64.3)
ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS	1	98.2 (97.2)	8.6 (5.4)	7.6 (4.4)	+70.5	2.6 (—)	5.4 (4.4)	+22.7	0.9 (0.7)	+28.6	6.8 (5.7)	30.5 (27.9)	28.2 (19.4)	9.2 (8.3)
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	8	1,103.3 (967.5)	95.0 (89.2)	75.7 (75.5)	+0.3	27.5 (21.3)	46.1 (51.0)	−9.6	17.0 (16.0)	+6.3	52.4 (53.0)	582.3 (529.9)	16.3 (16.8)	263.4 (248.2)
METALS AND METAL FORMING	4	401.1 (419.4)	19.9 (16.0)	8.7 (6.4)	+35.9	3.8 (2.4)	4.0 (3.2)	+25.0	4.2 (4.1)	+2.4	10.5 (10.7)	270.2 (283.3)	7.4 (6.4)	70.6 (98.6)
MOTORS	5	2,395.7 (2,294.3)	93.9 (67.5)	46.4 (20.5)	+126.3	16.9 (13.7)	22.8 (4.7)	—	11.9 (14.0)	−15.0	64.7 (43.3)	1,059.3 (1,084.0)	8.9 (6.2)	223.9 (267.5)
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS	1	402.0 (345.0)	54.4 (50.6)	44.1 (42.2)	+4.5	11.0 (15.3)	33.1 (26.9)	+23.0	13.3 (11.7)	+13.7	39.7 (32.6)	337.3 (313.0)	16.1 (16.2)	57.0 (70.8)
TOTAL CAPITAL GOODS	30	5,896.3 (5,516.2)	382.9 (269.1)	245.2 (134.5)	+82.3	79.6 (67.2)	151.1 (61.1)	+147.3	56.7 (55.5)	+2.2	266.9 (164.9)	2,976.5 (2,892.0)	12.9 (9.3)	821.0 (884.9)
BREWERS AND DISTILLERS	6	6,926.5 (5,997.6)	625.5 (518.5)	421.8 (379.2)	+11.2	145.5 (108.7)	262.9 (259.1)	+1.5	96.0 (81.3)	+18.1	394.9 (317.6)	4,210.1 (4,112.1)	14.9 (12.6)	314.8 (301.8)
FOOD MANUFACTURING	5	7,350.1 (6,803.6)	266.9 (225.1)	172.0 (157.1)	+9.5	32.0 (32.0)	138.7 (120.9)	+14.7	46.8 (38.3)	+22.2	160.4 (145.2)	1,887.9 (1,592.2)	14.1 (16.2)	437.9 (356.3)
FOOD RETAILING	3	825.5 (697.5)	40.2 (31.6)	38.5 (30.2)	+27.5	17.6 (10.8)	20.9 (19.3)	+8.3	7.9 (5.9)	+33.9	21.5 (20.8)	124.5 (199.9)	32.3 (15.8)	−8.4 (−14.1)
HEALTH AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
LEISURE	5	307.2 (293.6)	30.6 (25.6)	26.7 (22.5)	+18.1	14.0 (8.8)	12.7 (13.7)	−7.3	6.7 (6.0)	+11.7	19.3 (20.5)	137.9 (159.2)	22.2 (18.4)	2.7 (2.5)
NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHING	3	452.4 (398.1)	22.3 (26.7)	18.0 (23.6)	−23.7	7.3 (4.6)	10.7 (18.9)	−43.4	5.6 (5.4)	+3.7	21.0 (25.6)	196.6 (179.6)	11.3 (14.9)	21.8 (20.5)
PACKAGING AND PAPER	1	21.1 (4.4)	9.5 (1.5)	9.0 (1.4)	—	0.3 (0.4)	8.8 (1.0)	—	1.1 (0.3)	—	8.5 (1.0)	14.7 (4.9)	64.6 (30.6)	6.1 (0.8)
STORES	3	540.6 (476.4)	39.3 (31.7)	36.1 (24.9)	+45.0	5.2 (0.9)	30.8 (24.0)	+28.3	10.0 (8.5)	+17.6	34.0 (25.8)	379.6 (288.6)	10.4 (11.0)	22.3 (2.2)
TEXTILES	2	49.1 (46.0)	8.8 (7.4)	7.0 (6.1)	+14.8	2.8 (1.9)	4.2 (4.2)	—	1.5 (1.1)	+36.4	3.5 (4.2)	53.3 (45.9)	16.5 (16.1)	31.1 (23.4)
TOBACCOS	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
OTHER CONSUMER	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
TOTAL CONSUMER GRP	28	16,472.5 (14,717.2)	1043.1 (868.1)	729.1 (645.1)	+13.0	224.7 (168.1)	489.7 (461.1)	+6.2	175.6 (146.8)	+19.6	695.1 (558.5)	7,004.6 (6,362.6)	14.9 (13.6)	827.3 (693.4)
CHEMICALS	2	1,611.2 (1534.6)	255.9 (230.6)	162.6 (158.9)	+2.3	23.3 (34.2)	128.6 (113.5)	+13.3	20.9 (18.3)	+14.2	191.9 (171.3)	1,152.9 (1,001.4)	20.5 (23.0)	252.5 (270.4)
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
MISCELLANEOUS	6	2931.0 (2,592.5)	218.7 (179.8)	139.8 (124.5)	+12.3	36.7 (23.5)	99.0 (96.2)	+2.9	32.8 (28.8)	+13.9	140.1 (133.0)	1,144.5 (1,018.0)	19.1 (17.7)	351.4 (384.8)
TOTAL INDUSTRIAL GRP	66	26,913.0 (24,360.6)	1,880.6 (1,547.6)	1,276.7 (1,063.0)	+20.1	364.3 (293.0)	868.4 (731.9)	+18.7	286.0 (249.4)	+14.7	1,199.0 (1,027.7)	12,278.5 (11,274.0)	15.3 (13.7)	2,252.2 (2,233.5)
OILS	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
BANKS	1	— (—)	109.2 (126.1)	90.5 (107.9)	−16.1	26.5 (40.5)	63.9 (67.5)	−5.3	15.1 (12.2)	+23.8	62.8 (56.1)	838.2 (692.7)	13.0 (18.2)	493.9 (449.9)
DISCOUNT HOUSES	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
INSURANCE (LIFE)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
INSURANCE (COMPOSITE)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
INSURANCE BROKERS	1	— (—)	11.2 (10.4)	9.5 (9.2)	+1.1	4.8 (4.5)	4.0 (4.5)	−7.0	2.1 (1.9)	+10.6	3.4 (3.5)	36.0 (33.6)	43.1 (44.1)	−0.6 (1.4)
MERCHANT BANKS	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
PROPERTY	5	— (—)	86.2 (71.0)	44.7 (36.8)	+21.5	17.5 (14.3)	26.4 (21.8)	+21.1	19.8 (14.5)	+36.6	7.9 (8.5)	1,318.7 (1,117.5)	6.5 (6.4)	41.0 (30.7)
OTHER FINANCIAL	1	— (—)	5.7 (5.9)	3.5 (3.8)	−7.9	1.2 (1.5)	2.3 (2.3)	—	1.4 (1.1)	+27.3	1.7 (1.9)	271.2 (223.6)	1.4 (1.7)	−0.6 (−1.0)
TOTAL FINANCIAL GROUP†	8	— (—)	210.3 (211.4)	148.0 (157.7)	−6.2	28.5 (49.1)	123.1 (107.4)	+14.6	38.4 (29.7)	+29.3	102.5 (91.3)	2,454.1 (2,057.4)	8.6 (10.3)	533.7 (481.0)
INVESTMENT TRUSTS	14	— (—)	44.0 (41.6)	38.1 (36.2)	+5.2	14.0 (13.6)	23.5 (22.2)	+5.9	21.9 (20.6)	+6.3	1.6 (1.7)	874.8 (786.3)	5.0 (5.3)	3.4 (4.0)
MINING FINANCE	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	—	— (—)	—	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
OVERSEAS TRADERS	2	3008.9 (2,415.4)	169.1 (190.0)	75.7 (110.7)	−33.4	33.5 (43.7)	22.5 (39.2)	−43.1	24.2 (24.1)	+0.4	29.3 (41.6)	1,303.1 (1,272.5)	13.0 (14.9)	54.6 (145.1)

NOTES ON COMPILATION OF THE TABLE

The classification is that of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, used in the daily Financial Times—Actuaries Indices.

Col. 1 gives turnover, exclusive of VAT unless otherwise indicated.

Col. 2 gives profits before interest and taxation, that is to say profits after all charges except loan and other interest but before deducting taxation provisions and minority interests.

N.B.—Certain companies, including merchant banks, discount houses, insurance and shipping companies are exempted from disclosing the full information required under the Companies Act, 1948.

Col. 3 gives Pre-tax Profits, that is to say profits after all charges including debentures and loan interest but before deducting taxation provision and minority interests.

Col. 4 groups all corporation taxation including Dominion, Colonial and Foreign liability and future tax provisions but excluding adjustments relating to previous years.

Col. 5 gives the net profits accruing on equity capital after meeting—

1—Minority interests.

2—All prior charges—sinking fund payments, etc. and Preference dividends and

3—Provisions for staff and employees pensions funds where this is a standard annual charge against net revenue.

Col. 6 sets out the net cost of dividend on equity capital.

Col. 7 is the capital generated internally over a year's trading. For the purposes of comparison equity earnings plus depreciation less equity dividends is the recognised method of computing this figure.

Col. 8 constitutes the total net capital employed. This is the total of net fixed assets—excluding intangibles such as goodwill—plus current assets less current liabilities, except bank overdrafts.

* For merchant banks and discount houses a more realistic figure to quote is the balance-sheet total.

Col. 9 represents the net return on capital employed. Col. 2 as a percentage of Col. 8 provides an indication of average profitability.

† Excluding merchant banks, discount houses and insurance (life and composite).

Col. 10 net current assets are arrived at by the subtraction of current liabilities and provision from current assets.

‡ No figures given.

Dividend declarations by SA gold groups

The June dividend declaration season of the South African gold mining industry continued with some widely differing announcements from the mines in the Anglovaal and Rand Mines groups.

The biggest surprise was probably the final of 460 cents (271p) from the Anglovaal group's Hartebeestfontein. This payment was well above the share market's best expectations, and lifted the total for the year to June 30 from 650 cents to 760 cents.

The investment company Zandpan, which holds shares in Hartebeest, passed on the benefit of the increased dividend from the mine in the form of a final payment of 78 cents.

This compared with 47 cents last time, and lifted the total for the year to end-June from 110 cents to 128 cents.

The news from Anglovaal's other gold producers was not as good, however. The heavy capital spending programme at Eastern Transvaal Consolidated induced the mine to cut its final by 5 cents to 45 cents, somewhat below expectations.

This gave a reduced total for the year of 85 cents, against 110 cents in 1981-82.

Village Main Reef maintained its total for the year at 5 cents with a final of that amount. Last year's sole payment was an interim of 5 cents.

The group's antimony and gold producing Consolidated Murchison returned to the dividend list with an interim of 20 cents. No dividends were declared in calendar 1982.

Meanwhile, Anglovaal itself declared a final dividend of 225 cents a share, making total for the year to end-June of 315 cents, unchanged from the previous year. Profits for the past 12 months are estimated at R46.31m (£27.2m), down from the actual out-turn of R49.12m in 1981/2.

The associated Middle Witwatersrand lifted its dividend total for the same period by 5 cents to 80 cents with a final of 50 cents.

In a similar vein, the dividend declarations from the gold operations of Rand Mines, part of the big Barlow Rand group, contained one pleasant surprise and some bad news for shareholders. The final of 155 cents from Blyvooruitzicht was above the market's best expectations and compared with last year's final of 90 cents.

This gave a total for the year of 270 cents, against 190 cents in 1981-82.

By contrast, East Rand Proprietary Mines and Durban Roodepoort Deep both opted to pass their interim dividends. Neither decision came as a complete surprise, as both mines had been struggling against the combination of rising costs, lower gold prices and heavy capital expenditure programmes.

The return to the dividend list of the young Deelkraal featured June declarations from the Consolidated Gold Fields group.

The payment, a final dividend of 10 cents (5.9p) was Deelkraal's first since the maiden 5 cents paid as an interim in December 1980.

This mine has had more than its fair share of problems over the past couple of years, mainly as a result of disappointing ore grades. Nevertheless, the operation seems to have been conceived on a sound basis.

The other declarations from the mines in the Gold Fields group were mostly rather disappointing, with the exception of the 30 cent final from Vlakfontein.

This payment compared with 20 cents last time, and boosted the total for the year from 35 cents to 45 cents.

Kloof was perhaps the best of the rest, with a 200 cents final just about in line with most expectations. This was 50 cents better than the previous corresponding payment, and lifted the total for the year from 270 cents to 330 cents.

The remaining dividends were all below the share market's expectations, although this may well have had more to do with the fact that most people pitched their hopes a little too high than with the actual declarations, as was the case with the interim payments announced last December.

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF STOCK INDICES

—	July	June	May	April
Financial Times				
Government Securities	80.21	82.53	81.27	81.93
Fixed Interest	83.14	84.30	83.30	83.89
Industrial Ordinary	697.9	716.6	690.2	665.5
Gold Mines	652.1	634.8	655.6	629.4
Total Bargains	20,102	22,225	19,274	25,100
F.T.—Actuaries				
Industrial Group	437.55	446.38	427.48	435.82
500 Share	480.97	489.44	463.71	471.29
Financial Group	328.37	327.66	316.01	319.93
All-Share (750)	443.46	446.23	426.87	433.32

	July High	July Low
Industrial Ordinary	721.4 (28th)	676.9 (13th)
All-Share	455.22 (1st)	431.39 (13th)

BIDS AND DEALS

June 1—August 8

Ebb and flow across the Atlantic

The two quoted arms of Mr James Gulliver's food and drinks interests are to merge. Argyll Foods has added to its chain of LO-Cost discount stores and Amalgamated Distilled Products has sold two offshoots of its North West Vintners (Retail) subsidiary. It is now planned to put ADP and Argyll into a new operation, Argyll Group, which would be turning over £1.4bn on an historic basis and producing profits of almost £29m.

Flight Refuelling and Huntleigh have agreed terms of an all equity exchange offer by Flight. Two directors, and founders, of Huntleigh Mr Schild and Mr Epstein, have taken the group's medical and electronics interests out of the deal and have formed a consortium to buy these interests for £510,000 in cash.

Rebuffed at first, Guest Keen and Nettlefolds has altered the equity terms of its all paper approach to Associated Engineering to the point where GKN's proposals for a strengthening of the companies' automotive components interests through a merger have been accepted by the AE board.

Grand Metropolitan has kept up the pace of its U.S. expansion with the tender offer worth $36m approximately, by its American subsidiary for Children's World, which runs educational day care centres. Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley group has also strengthened its U.S. ties with an acquisition of 40 per cent of Security Corporation of America. Hawley has also completed further UK cleaning purchases.

Reversing the flow of bid activity across the Atlantic, the rival U.S. bidders for Sotheby Parke Bernet have reached agreement. Mr Alfred Taubman, the "white knight" the auction house had sought so desperately is to take control in a bid worth about £83m.

S. Pearson, ultimate owner of the Financial Times, has participated in the $149m acquisition of Cedar Point.

A

AAH Holdings

AAH Holdings has acquired **Mawson and Proctor Pharmaceuticals** for £710,898. MP is a wholesale distributor of pharmaceutical products to retail chemists and hospitals in the north east.

Directors of AAH estimate the net tangible asset value of M-P is about £1m and the pre-tax profit for the year to April 30, 1983 was £130,000.

Of the consideration £388,509 has been satisfied by the issue of 417,756 ordinary 25p stock units of AAH credited as fully paid and the rest of the consideration, totalling £322,389, has been paid in cash.

Advance Services

Advance Services, in which the British Electric Traction Company has the majority shareholding, has acquired, for $7.25m cash (£4.87m), **Prathers of Florida, U.S.** Forecast profits for the financial year 1984 are $1.25m pre-tax.

Prathers hires workwear and offers laundry services to commercial premises, hospitals and health care establishments. The purchase is the first by Advance Services in the U.S.

Allied Lyons

Allied Lyons has acquired **Brewery Utilities, Brewery Utilities (Fruit Machines)** and **Brewery Utilities (Western)** for a total of £2m. Of this £1.02m will be satisfied by the immediate issue of 732,057 Allied ordinary and the remaining £980,000 by a further issue of such shares in June 1986 based on the ruling share price at that time.

The new shares will not rank for the final dividend of 3.85p.

Brewery Utilities companies own amusement machines mainly situated in public houses.

Amalg. Distilled

Amalgamated Distilled Products has disposed of two subsidiaries of North West Vintners (Retail) by way of the sale of NWV's 75 per cent shareholding interests in Trinitas and in Drummond Naylor.

The shares in Trinitas have been sold to Messrs J. M. and D. K. Lee, directors of Trinitas and holders of the remaining issued shares.

NWV has entered a five year distribution agreement with Trinitas, on terms which the directors of ADP and NWV believe to be significantly better than can be obtained from other distributors.

The shares in Drummond have been sold to K. Naylor, the managing director and holder of the remaining issued shares.

Both disposals are for a nominal consideration approximating underlying net asset value.

APV Holdings

Frigoscanda Contracting has sold to **APV Holdings** the Grimsby-based **Jackstone Froster**, a maker of freezing equipment. Subject to legal formalities, completion of the deal will take place in the near future. Frigoscandia will continue to market Jackstone Froster in-line freezing equipment.

Argyll Foods

Argyll Foods has acquired, through its subsidiary Lo-Cost Stores, the share capital of **De Rooy Grocers**. Total consideration is £435,000 cash.

Associated Paper Inds

Associated Paper Industries has agreed to buy **Diffusion Radiator** of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, a Morgan Grenfell Investment subsidiary, for £700,000 to be paid cash. Diffusion's audited accounts for the year to November 30 last showed a pre-tax profit of £227,000 on a £1.25m turnover and net assets of £172,000.

Assoc Tooling Inds

ATI has conditionally agreed to buy **North Wales Trust** for £1,088,360, by issue of 784,480 ordinary ATI, at 75p, and £500,000 cash, and **Chadwick Investments**, owner of Fonadek International, for £661,640 by issue of 695,520 ordinary ATI, at 75p, and £140,000 cash.

The principal vendor, **Consult International**, wholly-owned by **R. A. Shuck**, will have a contingent entitlement to a deferred consideration related to the performance of **Tradewinner Systems**, a Chadwick subsidiary. Entitlement will be equivalent to five times the aggregate of Tradewinner's pre-tax profit less £48,000 for the two years ending January 31, 1985, less corporation tax at the standard rate applicable at the time, subject to a maximum additional payment of £800,000.

The additional consideration will be satisfied in ATI ordinary at 100p per share for which, at the option of Consult, cash may be taken in lieu.

Attwoods

Contracts have been exchanged for the acquisition by Attwoods of **E. F. Phillips and Sons** and **E. F. Phillips and Sons (Transport)**. The completion date is June 30 1983.

The consideration for Phillips and Phillips Transport is £1.56m and £40,000 respectively, to be satisfied by the issue of 1.25m ordinary shares in Attwoods.

Of the shares to be issued, 324,734 shares will be retained by the vendors; 323,512 shares have been conditionally placed at 128p per share through the market—mainly with institutions. Subject to the prior approval of Attwoods shareholders, 601,754 shares will be placed at the same price with British Car Auction.

In view of the costs involved in a rights issue, the board considers that it is the best interest that the transaction be financed through the means of a vendor placing.

Attwoods has also completed the sale of **Carol's Motors**, receiving in total £500,000 paid in full at completion. This represents the purchase price of the shares and settlement of the inter company loan account between Carol's and Attwoods.

Ault & Wiborg

Ault and Wiborg and **Donald Macpherson** announce agreement for the acquisition by Ault of **Sherwood Parsons**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Macpherson.

Total purchase consideration including the repayment of amounts owing by Parsons to other companies in the Macpherson group is expected to amount to approximately £2m cash.

The consideration is subject to adjustment once completion accounts are available.

Following an initial payment of £1m, balance will be paid by a second instalment in October 1983 and by a final instalment expected to amount to approximately £700,000 in October 1984.

Sherwood Parsons manufacture vehicle refinishes.

In respect of the year ended October 31 1982 the audited loss before tax of Parsons amounted to £106,000. Net assets at that date were £1.855m; before deducting £1.32m owed to Macpherson.

Aurora

Cabot Allys (UK) has exercised the option conferred on it to *acquire certain land, plant and* machinery at Openshaw used in connection with Aurora's former steel making activities.

On completion, £2.55m would be payable by Cabot, of which £1.45m would be payable to lessors of certain of the equipment and £1.1m would be used to reduce short-term indebtedness.

The transaction would result in a material reduction in closure provisions included in the 1982 accounts.

B

Bairstow Eves

Bairstow Eves has acquired the nine offices and goodwill of estate agents, **Curson & Poole**, for £770,000.

The company expects the new offices to be fully integrated by the end of 1983 and to contribute to the group profits in 1984.

Sidney C. Banks

Sidney C. Banks of Bedfordshire, has agreed terms for the acquisition of Hi-Yield Feeds and Hi-Yield Foods (1980), cereal drying, storage and animal feed processing companies of Alford, Lincolnshire.

The directors believe these acquisitions will prove to be a valuable step in the expansion of the group's activities in Lincolnshire, where it already operates a grain merchanting business through its subsidiary G.F. Howsam.

Barker and Dobson

Barker and Dobson has acquired **Harringtons (Tunbridge Wells)**, together with an assignment of the directors loans to that company for an aggregate consideration which will depend on net asset values of the company at completion, but which will not exceed £80,000.

Of this figure, £63,850 will be satisfied by 375,759 ordinary in Barker and £1,150 cash. Any adjustment will be settled in cash.

Harringtons makes quality chocolate confectionery.

Barrow Hepburn

Barrow Hepburn Group has purchased—through its wholly-owned subsidiary company Barrow Hepburn Equipment—the 49 per cent minority shareholding in its American subsidiary BH/Sala Inc. thus consolidating the group's position in the U.S. safety equipment market.

Charles Baynes

Charles Baynes has reached agreement in principle with Mr J. Brooks to acquire a 75 per cent interest in **Kleenol Hygiene**, the industrial and office cleaners, for £200,000. The price is to be satisfied as to £125,000 in cash and by the issue of 136,364 ordinary shares of 10p each in Baynes.

Benn unconditional

At an EGM of Extel resolutions were passed to approve the acquisition of Benn Brothers and to increase the share capital of Extel to enable the offers to be completed.

At an EGM of Benn the resolution to effect the proposed capital reorganisation was approved by shareholders.

Accordingly, Extel has declared the offers unconditional in all respects and the offers will remain open for acceptance until further notice.

BET purchase

British Electric Traction, through its wholly owned subsidiary United Transport International, has acquired Archibald Brechin, a Glasgow based bulk liquids haulier, for £900,000.

C. T. Bowring

Crusader Insurance Company was bought by **Cigna Corporation**, a major U.S. insurance group, for £80.6m. In the deal, Marsh and McLennan Companies, the U.S. insurance broker which owns **C. T. Bowring** through which it held its interest in Crusader, sold its 75 per cent stake while American Express's Fireman's Fund, which held 25 per cent, disposed of its stake to Cigna.

Bowring also reached agreement to sell English and American Insurance Company to a group of executives of English and American and Providence Capitol International Insurance Group of Companies. Under the agreement Bowring received £10m in cash.

BPB Industries

BPB Industries is to acquire through its U.S. subsidiary, BPB Instruments Inc, 56.5 per cent of **Allegheny Nuclear Surveys** for a cash payment of $4.5m and $8m worth of BPB logging equipment. The acquisition will be made progressively over the next 18 months.

Brignull

Doyle Dane Bernbach International Inc. of the U.S. has acquired 100 per cent of **Brignull Le Bas Gould**, a consumer advertising agency based in London.

Britannia Arrow

Britannia Arrow Holdings, the holding company, entered into agreement with **National Employers Mutual General Insurance Association** to buy **National Employers Life Assurance Company** for £19.8m in cash. National Employers Life is engaged in all types of life assurance business and the management of unit trusts totalling £57m. National Employers has long-term business funds totalling some £284m. Premium income amounted to £67m in 1982. Pre-tax profits of National Employers for 1982 were £330,000.

British Land

British Land and **Comfort Hotels** have formed a joint company to construct a chain of new hotels in various parts of the British Isles to be known as Comfort Lodge (UK).

Comfort will enter into an agreement to provide management for the development and operation of each Comfort Lodge on a fee basis.

British Land and Comfort Hotels will each provide £1m and British Land will contribute a further £8m secured loan for approved schemes.

It is the intention to seek a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market for Comfort Lodge (UK) when sufficient progress has been made.

BOC Group

BOC Group through its U.S. subsidiaries, Airco and Glasrock Medical Services, has decided to sell its 52 per cent stake in **Mountain Medical Equipment**.

The 52 per cent stake in Mountain Medical—2.74m shares—is being sold because it is not key to the groups main activities and, since it is a public company, may have potential conflicts of interest with BOC Group's other medical operations.

Mountain Medical makes oxygen concentrators used in *the home for treating respiratory ailments.*

ESAB of Sweden has agreed in principle with BOC Limited, the European subsidiary of the **BOC Group**, the purchase of BOC Limited's UK based welding division.

Both companies view this as a natural progression in the restructuring of the welding industry in Europe. ESAB is a company wholly involved in welding and cutting and is one of the largest such companies in the world.

British Steam

British Steam Specialities Group has agreed the sale of **Lane Brothers (Mansfield)**, civil engineering contractors, to **Tilbury** for £100,000. An estimated £60,000 more should ultimately become receivable.

BSR investment

BSR has acquired a 30 per cent holding in an electronics company, **Entrepo**, based in Silicon Valley, U.S.

The investment has been made by Hong Kong subsidiary, Astec International, at $1m. Astec has joined with two California joint venture firms to provide Entrepo with $2.3m in venture funding.

BTG sale

The British Technology Group (BTG) has sold the business of Q1 Europe—which was in liquidation—to the former management and staff of the company who will continue the business under the name of Quorum Computers.

The company was owned jointly by the BTG, through the National Enterprise Board, and the Q1 Corporation of Hauppage, New York. Each shareholder held 50 per cent of the voting share capital. The business employs 40 people and is engaged in the development, manufacture and marketing of multi-user microcomputer networks for office automation applications selling both in the UK and throughout Western Europe.

BTR joint venture

IMI and **BTR Industries** have combined the operations of their subsidiary companies, IMI Marston and Palmer Aero Products in a joint venture, to be known as Marston Palmer, and owned 75 per cent by IMI and 25 per cent by BTR Industries.

Bunzl

Bunzl, UK paper and packaging group, has acquired **United Suppliers Pty** of New South Wales, in what is the first step towards the creation of an Australian paper distribution division.

It also announced the purchase of two Miami-based paper distributors, **ALA Corporation**, which operates Dutch Country Paper and Syrups, and American Paper and Chemicals, a division of American Services Corporation.

Bunzl will pay £2m for the three companies with a further payment due for United Suppliers in three years time depending on profits. At current levels this would amount to an extra £400,000.

United Suppliers, which is based in Granville, near Sydney, is one of the largest independent distributors of paper disposables in Australia. It expects to make profits of about £300,000 on turnover of £4.5m.

Its two Florida acquisitions will strengthen Bunzl in the south-eastern U.S. where it already owns the Palm Beach Paper Company. The two new companies have projected profits of £300,000 on £6.5m turnover.

Burnett

Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings has issued and alloted 44,269 ordinary shares of 25p each to the vendors of McErlain (Plant), pursuant to the terms of the acquisition agreement for the whole of the issued share capital of McErlain dated August 21 1981.

Burns-Anderson

Burns-Anderson has completed the purchase of **University Medical and General**, a newly formed company whose managing director is Alan David Moore.

Mr Moore has for some years carried on business of Moore and Company, a partnership based in Bristol, acting as a financial planning consultancy.

University will carry on the business formerly conducted by this partnership. Mr Moore has entered into a 5 year service agreement with University.

The company has purchased 75 per cent of University for an initial £125,000 cash. Further payments may become payable depending on profits earned by University during the next three years.

C

W. Canning

W. Canning has completed the sale of the capital of **Lawrence, Smith and Canning** of Australia to **Healing Inds** of New Zealand.

The sale was agreed in principle in November 1982 for the consideration together with the repayment of Interco loans totalling some £650,000 which correspond to the net asset value at March 31, 1983.

The disposal means that the company has received since January 1, 1983, the whole of the *sum of £1.73m identified in the* balance sheet at December 31, 1982 as assets in the course of realisation.

Caparo Properties

Caparo Properties (formerly E. Austin and Sons) has exchanged contracts and completed the sale of its oil refining and distribution business to **Firmstocks**, for its wholly owned subsidiary, **Rigg and Remington**.

The total net consideration is £425,000 of which £300,000 has been received in cash and the balance of £125,000 is receivable over the next two years with interest at base rate plus 2 per cent.

In addition, the company has granted to the purchaser leases of certain plant and property at its Stanstead Abbott's site, which gives an initial annual rental income of £39,400. The business disposed of had adjusted net assets of £325,000 at December 31, 1982 and resulted in a trading loss of approximately £10,000 for the nine months ended on that day.

The cash consideration will be used to reduce the company's borrowings pending re-investment in properties.

Carlton Communications

Carlton Communications has agreed to acquire the **Moving Picture Company Holdings**. The enlarged Carlton Group will have, on an historic basis, a turnover of £12.31m and pre-tax profits of £2,679,914. The consideration for the purchase will be satisfied by the issue of 5.077m Carlton shares and arrangements have been made conditionally for Hambros Bank to place, mainly with institutions, 2,036,362 shares at 255p. The value of the Moving Picture Company Holdings is £12.95m, based on a Carlton share price of 255p.

Cattle's (Holdings)

Cattles (Holdings) has completed the purchase of **Refuge Supply Company** and **Refuge Sales**, check traders operating *from offices in Oldham and* Middleton.

Aggregate consideration, paid wholly in cash was £136,950 and the combined net assets of the two companies according to the audited accounts as at December 31 1982 and February 28 1983 respectively totalled £140,261.

Further acquisitions in the north-west are being actively sought.

Charterhouse Pet.

The acquisition by **Charterhouse Petroleum** of North Sea oil and gas interests from Charter Consolidated has been completed. The consideration of 3,625,000 ordinary shares have been issued to the vendors.

Clayton Son and Co.

Clayton Son and Co. (Hldgs) has acquired the fixed assets, drawings, name and stocks of **John Shaw and Sons (Salford)** (in liquidation) for £520,000.

J. Shaw makes hydraulic presses and machinery. Turnover for the year to July 31 1982 *was £1.29m and during the period* substantial losses were incurred.

Clyde Petroleum

Clyde Petroleum, the USM-quoted oil company, has made an agreed share offer for **Thames Oil and Gas** worth £4m. This follows the collapse in May of a £11.8m merger with Saxon Oil after the Saxon board withdrew agreement to the deal at the 11th hour.

Clyde is offering 63 of its own shares for every 100 of Thames. With Clyde shares at 105p — up from 63p early in the year—this values Thames shares at 66.2p. If the offer is fully taken up, Clyde would have to issue just over 3.8m new shares, representing 4.3 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

The proposed merger gives Clyde further oil and gas production and reserves in the U.S., and allows the company to benefit from the use of Thames' U.S. tax position. Clyde already has agreements with Thames allowing Thames to take a share in all new Clyde projects in the U.S.

The planned merger with Saxon, which originally had the backing of the Saxon board, collapsed when Clyde refused to review bid terms after learning of a possible oil strike in which Saxon had a 50 per cent stake.

Cont'l. Microwave

Continental Microwave, the Luton-based manufacturer of telecommunications, broadcast and defence electronics and microwave equipment, has entered into a conditional contract to purchase a 51 per cent interest in **R.F. Technology Inc.**, of Connecticut, from the company's president, **Mr John D. Fackler**.

R. F. Technology, founded in 1975, has a complementary product range to that of Continental Microwave and it would be Continental Microwave's intention to use R. F. as a base for selling its broadcast equipment throughout the U.S.

The 51 per cent interest will be acquired for cash and there will be an agreement for Continental Microwave to acquire the remaining 49 per cent in two years.

Cosalt

Cosalt says agreement has been reached for the sale of their system building business to its existing management. Cosalt's chairman, Mr J. M. T. Ross, commenting on the business in his statement to shareholders issued in May, said that it had been difficult to generate sufficient UK business to provide a firm base for the future and that the business continued to give cause for concern.

Cosalt consider this to be an appropriate time for such a sale bearing in mind the condition of the market and the purchase price of approximately £120,000 which represents the book value of the assets being transferred.

Crosby House

A full and final settlement has been agreed between **Crosby House Group** and the **Thomas Cook Group**, in respect of an outstanding claim against Thomas Cook, arising from Crosby's acquisition from the latter in January, 1977 of Thomas Cook Freight.

The terms of the settlement are that Thomas Cook will pay Crosby an aggregate sum of £489,508 in respect of Crosby's claim and legal costs.

Crosby will give notice to holders of Crosby's convertible deferred ordinary shares to convert 87 per cent of their holdings into Crosby ordinary (on a one-for-one basis) by payment to Crosby of the aggregate sum of £434,091.

Accordingly Crosby will receive a total of £923,599 pursuant to the settlement and conversion of the convertible deferred ordinary shares.

D

Dawson Intl.

Dawson International has acquired **Kammgarnspinnerei Wilhelmshaven (KSW)** of Wilhelmshaven, West Germany for a cash consideration of DM27.4m (some £7m).

KSW is one of the largest spinners of hand knitting yarn in the Federal Republic of Germany. It sells under the brand name "Hübner Wolle."

In the year to March 31 1983, KSW made a pre-tax profit of *DM 5.1m on sales of DM 94m.* At March 31 1983 the net assets were DM 25.5m.

Dollands Photographic

At an extraordinary meeting of **Dollands Photographic Holdings** on Monday July 11 the acquisition of **Geoff Axtell Associates** and **Geoff Axtell Enterprises** was approved and resolutions giving the directors authority to issue equity securities and adopting new articles of association were passed.

De La Rue

De La Rue has acquired **J. Brevitt**, a West Midlands express delivery company, for an undisclosed amount.

Dunlop (NZ)

Dunlop New Zealand has acquired the Reidrubber tyre business from **Feltex New Zealand** for £2.6m.

E

Electronic Rentals

Relayvision, part of the **Electronic Rentals Group (ERG)**, has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Edwin P. Lees & Co —with effect from March 31 1983.

At that date, the value of net assets employed in Relay*vision was approximately £4m.* ERG has taken a 49 per cent share in Lees and the former Lees shareholders will retain 51 per cent of the enlarged company.

The directors say the addition of the Relayvision shops will complement and increase the trading area, increase servicing efficiency, give better buying power for the benefit of Lees' customers and improve profitability.

Exco/Godsell

Godsell & Company, a subsidiary of **Exco International**, has disposed of its Irish subsidiary, **Godsell Ireland** to Mr Peter Trenier, its managing director. The Exco Group will continue to be represented in Dublin through Astley & Pearce (Ireland).

F

FBC sale

Boots and **Fisons** agreed on July 19 to sell their joint investment in **FBC**, an agrochemical group the two companies set up in 1980. **Schering**, the West German pharmaceutical group, has agreed to buy the company for £120m.

The two British companies said that the return on capital provided by FBC did not meet their requirements, although FBC's sales and profits have been growing since the group's formation.

The proceeds of the sale will be split evenly between Fisons and Boots.

Feedex Agricultural

Feedex Agricultural Inds has agreed to acquire **Grain Storage (Engineering)** subject to listing by the Stock Exchange, London, of the shares to be issued as part-consideration. Consideration will be £350,000, which will be satisfied by the issue of 678,571 Feedex Ordinary credited at 28p, plus £160,000 cash. A further sum, not exceeding £30,000, will be payable dependent on the amount by which the profits for the period to December 31 exceed £90,000.

G. M. Firth

G. M. Firth (Holdings) subsidiary, Clarkes of Stillington, has acquired from **Amalgamated Metal Corporation**, the steel stockholding business and related assets of **Garder Steel**, for £842,503 cash.

Assets being acquired comprise property, steel stocks, plant and machinery valued at £842,500. For 1982 the profits before tax attributable to the two depots being acquired amount to approximately £190,000.

James Fisher

James Fisher & Sons has acquired **Hawkins Bros (Gravesend)** *for* a cash consideration of £1.3m. Hawkins owns and operates a commercial wharf and warehouse complex at Gravesend known as "Denton Wharf."

James Fisher has extensive port interests in the UK and will continue to operate Hawkins as *an extension of its existing port* facilities.

Fitch Lovell

Fitch Lovell, the food wholesaler and manufacturer, has sold West Gunner, a chain of butchers' *shops*, to **Union International** in a deal worth £4.05m.

West Gunner has traded at a loss in recent years, but has returned to profit this year. Fitch believed the chain's future would be "better secured" with a group having a more substantial presence in the meat retailing sector.

A total of £3.05m was paid to Fitch on completion, with the balance to be paid in equal instalments in November and in April next year.

Fitch recently sold its loss-making poultry operations for £2.5m. The disposals are part of a plan to move away from retailing, and to strengthen food manufacture and wholesaling operations.

Flight Refuelling

Agreement has been reached on the terms of a recommended offer by **Flight Refuelling** for the whole of the issued share capital of **Huntleigh Group**.

For every one ordinary 10p share of Huntleigh, Flight is offering one ordinary 25p share credited as fully paid.

Flight Refuelling forecast profits of not less than £5m for 1983. This is compared with £3.75m. Flight also expects to be able to recommend a total dividend of 2.5p (2.01p). For 1982 Huntleigh profits were £0.8m.

Folkes Hefo

John Folkes Hefo is disposing of its housing division, **Yenton Minster Homes**, which lost £210,000 in 1982, against a £178,000 profit previously. The company is to be bought by Mr D. Gascoine, a director, and members of his family.

Mr Gascoine has been responsible for the housing side for 17 years and, as this is his prime responsibility, he will be resigning from the Folkes Hefo board upon completion to concentrate on Yenton Minster's activities.

Folkes Hefo will receive £400,000 in cash, as well as land which has been professionally valued on an open market basis at £600,000. 2.8m non-voting ordinary shares with an attributable net asset value at December 31, 1982 of £1.5m will be cancelled.

This will involve an extraordinary loss in the group's 1983 accounts of £1.67m, but the net worth attributable to the remaining shares will not be materially altered due to the cancellation of the shares. The company intends to sell the land so its liquidity will be improved. The final overall effect of the sale will be a reduction in group borrowings of around £3m.

G

GB Papers

Barratt Aberdeen has concluded three deals with the Culter Mills Paper Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **GB Papers**, for the purchase of the former paper mill site at Peterculter.

The three deals total £1.8m and are subject to the granting of planning permission for 325 houses. Outline planning consent has already been obtained for the greater part of the site after appeal to the Secretary of State.

GKN/Costain

Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds and **Costain Group** have agreed to merge their scaffolding and formwork interests in the UK and the continent of Europe with effect from July 3 1983.

GKN will hold 60 per cent and Costain 40 per cent of the new group which will have a combined turnover of some £60m.

The merger is subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading.

Global Resources

Global Natural Resources has arranged for a new United States company, Global Natural Resources Inc, to serve as the parent company of the group. The scheme has been approved by the English High Court following shareholders' approval given on June 27 1983. It is expected that the arrangement will become effective on July 29 1983, when holders of shares in the UK company will be able to apply for registered shares in the new U.S. company.

The shares of the new U.S. *company have been traded from* August 1 1983. Dealings in the UK shares on the London Stock Exchange have been suspended from the same date.

Goodman Air Taxis

Goodman Air Taxis, a private company controlled by Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of Intasun Leisure Group, is to buy the assets, contracts and goodwill of the **MAM Aviation Business**, the executive jet aircraft subsidiary of Management

Continued on next page

GKN—fast recovering from recession

BY IAN RODGER

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds continues to build on its new image as a fast recovering survivor of Britain's long industrial slump.

Its £66.8m all share bid for motor components group, AE, agreed last week after the terms were improved, has been warmly welcomed by investors.

Usually a bidder's shares can be expected to decline in value to compensate for the premium being paid for the acquisition. But GKN's shares have marched steadily up to 179p from 161p late last month before the three-for-10 bid—raised since to three-for-eight — was announced. Early this year, GKN shares were as low as 109p.

This performance is the more remarkable, considering that the number of GKN shares in issues, following the AE bid and the one-for-three rights issue in April, will have risen by over 50 per cent this year.

Investors have long been suspicious of GKN and other basic engineering groups because of the lack of growth potential in the motor industry and other metalworking sectors.

But there is growing confidence that GKN, at least, can deliver growth through a new strategy of building its share of world markets in a few specialised areas.

Throughout the recession, GKN has been making its own operations more competitive by slashing capacity and manpower. Since 1979, total employment in the group has fallen from 104,000 to 71,000 and closure and reorganisation costs total nearly £200m.

But the group has also been busy making joint venture deals with competitors to reduce competition and thereby improve both sales and margins.

The first of these was made with the British Steel Corporation two years ago, combining the steel wire and rod businesses of the two to form Allied Steel and Wire. In 1980, GKN's general steels businesses suffered losses of £12m. Today, Allied is breaking even, and should do better as it is allowed by the European steel regime to increase output.

A second deal was completed early this year, putting together the steel bright bar interests of GKN, Brymill and BSC, and a third, small one in April rationalising the high alloy steel foundry businesses of GKN and Johnson and Firth Brown.

In June, GKN and the Costain Group announced a plan to merge their scaffolding sale and hire businesses, a move that would catapault the combined operation into a roughly equal size with the UK market leader, SGB.

Last month, the first step towards rationalisation of the engineering steels industry was taken, with GKN and BSC buying control of Hadfields, the Lonrho subsidiary. The next step is to bring together the GKN interests, valued at something like £75m and the BSC interests, which are worth close to £300m. Despite the disparity, the Government wants BSC assets privatised, and GKN seems likely to emerge in a dominant role.

The AE takeover fits well into this pattern of recent moves. AE, formerly Associated Engineering, is a leading manufacturer of engine components—bearings, pistons and cylinder linings—and wholesale distributor in the UK of automotive parts. About 70 per cent of its £382m turnover in the year to September, 1982 came from these businesses.

GKN has significant but much smaller interests in these areas, with turnover of about £100m. Both groups had been suffering from overcapacity and had been discussing possible arrangements for combining their operations and rationalising them.

Given the intense competition in the automotive industry throughout the world, the pressure is increasing on component suppliers to cut prices. The trend to single sourcing of components is another way in which car makers try to cut costs.

In these circumstances, only a few large and internationally competitive component suppliers are likely to thrive, and GKN, which is already a leading world producer of transmission components, is showing that it is determined to be one of them.

GKN has been criticised for not diversifying into more rapidly growing businesses or even into the more exciting areas of motor components, such as plastics and composites.

But the group, having experimented unsuccessfully in the past with diversification, believes it should stick to markets it knows best and seize opportunities for growth. Company officials like to point out that the automotive industry is still the world's largest.

(In this context, it is unlikely that GKN will retain AE's significant gas turbine component manufacturing business, but no decision has yet been made.)

GKN can already claim some justification for its strategy. It seems well on the way to making profits on a scale with those prior to the recession, something which not many engineering groups can say.

Some analysts are looking for £90m in profits for the full year, more than double last year's £40m and not too far from the 1979 peak of £125.8m.

(As part of the improved offer terms, AE shareholders will receive a special 0.8p interim dividend. When AE announced its interim £9.8m pre-tax loss in June, it also passed the normal interim dividend.)

BIDS AND DEALS

June 1—August 8

Sotheby deal 'will prove to have been cheap'

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

MR ALFRED TAUBMAN, the wealthy Detroit property developer who is on the verge of taking control of Sotheby's, appears to be paying a very fancy price for a company with a poor trading record in recent years.

But according to Mr Marcus Agius, of Lazard Brothers: "Mr Taubman has in the past shown that while he is apparently paying over the odds the deal ultimately proves to have been cheap."

The two rival American bidders for Sotheby's have reached an agreement which should see Mr Taubman gain control of the auction house in a takeover deal worth £82.7m.

Mr Taubman, who emerged in June as the "white knight" acceptable to the Sotheby's board of directors, is to buy out the 29.9 per cent holding built up by the two original bidders, New York businessmen Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid.

This agreement, announced on June 28, depends on the approval of the takeover by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and on the deal meeting the provisions of the U.S. Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act.

Mr Taubman is offering Mr Cogan and Mr Swid 700p for each of their shares and, under the provisions of the Takeover Code, is extending this offer to all other shareholders.

This offer compares with the 520p offer originally made by the two New York businessmen and their subsequent promise to raise this to 630p following the appearance of Mr Taubman as a rival bidder.

The offer price of 700p will give Mr Cogan and Mr Swid an average profit of 200p per share on their 29.9 per cent holding—a total of about £7m.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission was given the customary six months to review the original bid for Sotheby's—announced on April 11—when the deal was referred to it in early May. Mr Taubman's bid has also been automatically referred to the commission.

If Mr Taubman's bid is approved and he gains control of Sotheby's the company will lose its public listing and revert to being a private company.

The prospects for Mr Taubman gaining control are good since he already holds 14.9 per cent of the equity and he has the backing of Sotheby's directors, staff and other "friends" of the company accounting for a further 10-15 per cent.

The directors and staff who own shares will be given the opportunity to exchange these for shares in the privatised company although the method of paying dividends to, and allowing this separate class of shareholders to dispose of their shares has still to be hammered out.

Sotheby's directors, who had announced their complete opposition to the Cogan/Swid bid, said they were delighted with the agreement that had been reached since this removed the uncertainty caused by the threat of a lengthy contest for the company.

It had been feared a protracted bid battle would lead to consignors—the people who bring articles to its showrooms for valuation and sale—would go elsewhere.

"The directors of Sotheby's warmly welcome this prospective cash offer and will recommend shareholders to accept it," Lazards, the merchant bank advising Mr Taubman, said.

"Mr Taubman has indicated to Sotheby's that he does not envisage any major changes to Sotheby's principal business given the steps already taken to improve profitability," Lazards said.

He has made it clear to the board that he regards Sotheby's history and tradition as of great value and considers it important that Sotheby's should continue to be centred in London."

This hands-off approach by Mr Taubman is clearly a major attraction to the Sotheby's management which feared a much more active intervention by Mr Cogan and Mr Swid.

While Mr Taubman plans to own, rather than run, Sotheby's he is known to have put forward a number of ideas to the board which they found acceptable.

Mr Cogan and Mr Swid described their decision to withdraw from the bid battle as "pragmatic." They felt unable to match the 700p offer in the light of their own profit projections for the company while they still faced a hostile Sotheby's board.

"While our interest was to be constructive and help shape and said.

"We are extremely disappointed that we shall not have the opportunity to play a role in the strengthening and further development of Sotheby's."

Mr Roger Seelig, of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising Mr Swid and Mr Cogan, said: "This is an offer of £82.7m for a company which lost £4m last year. This is a price level our clients could not justify to themselves. Your are looking at a phenomenal premium—480 per cent above the net asset value."

Mr Taubman, who is 58, is among the Forbes magazine top 400 list of wealthy Americans. A significant part of his fortune, made mainly in property development, has been invested in the arts — some of it in Sotheby's auction rooms.

This interest in the arts has led to trusteeships of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and of a number of other art influence policies and programmes that would make Sotheby's more competitive and profitable we have finally determined to sell our shares and withdraw our proposal," they galleries and foundations.

Mr Cogan and Mr Swid, who are also very wealthy men although not in the same league as Mr Taubman, made their fortunes through securities dealings, moving later into the manufacture of carpet underlay and quality furniture through their General Felt Industries and Knoll International companies.

The two New Yorkers, like Mr Taubman, hold a number of positions in the arts world. Despite the remarkably similar credentials of both bidders Sotheby's has resolutely opposed the Cogan/Swid approaches but welcomed those of Mr Taubman.

Sotheby's lobbied successfully for the referral of the bid by the Secretary of Trade to the Monopolies Commission, thereby gaining valuable time to find a "white knight."

With the European and American economies starting to recover from recession and auction room business starting to improve Mr Taubman's apparent decision to allow the existing management to continue their present policies could prove the right one.

G

Continued

Agency and Music. The purchase is effective on September 1 1984.

MAM Aviation provides engineering services and flight crews for private and company executive jets. It also owns one HS125 executive plane. It has engineering bases at Southampton and Heathrow.

Mr Goodman is paying £800,000 for the assets which have a book value of £640,000. The existing management will continue to run the business. The fleet of the new operation will immediately be augmented by two HS125's, which are owned privately by Mr Goodman and which have been managed by MAM Aviation.

GrandMet in U.S.

GrandMet USA, a wholly-owned subsidairy of Grand Metropolitan, has made an agreed tender offer worth about $36m for Children's World, which operates a chain of 123 educational day centres in nine states across the U.S.

Mr Jonathan Old, president of GrandMet USA, said the acquisition represented an opportunity to diversify into a consumer service industry with excellent prospects for growth.

Day care centres, which generally cater for children of about kindergarten age, are becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. as more women go out to work. Children's World has opened 17 new centres since the end of its financial year last July.

The company's revenues in 1981-82 totalled $20.9m, up from $14.4m two years earlier. Net income after tax rose from $829,000 in 1979-80 to $1.1m last year.

GrandMet had already purchased about 25 per cent of the shares in Children's World from the five main stockholders. And to make sure of its grip on the company, it had taken an option to buy 500,000 unissued shares at $13 a share in cash.

The dealer manager for the tender offer is Morgan Stanley.

Guinness Peat

Guinness Peat has completed the sale of a property in the West End of London, notified in the group's interim statement issued on June 30. The proceeds of £3.5m (less costs) will further reduce group borrowers.

H

Hallite

Hallite has agreed to acquire Poppe Rubber Company, a private company. The considera-private company. The consideration of £750,000 will be satisfied by the issue of 337,844 new ordinary shares of 50p each in Hallite, credited as fully paid, which have been placed with institutional investors by Hoare Govett.

The new Hallite shares will not carry the right to receive the final dividend of 7.5p per share for the 52 weeks ended April 30 1983. Completion of the acquisition took place on August 4, 1983 and dealings commenced on August 5.

In the year ended December 31 1982 Poppe had sales of £2.2m and made a loss of £73,000 before taxation. Net tangible assets at that date totalled £739,000.

Hambros

Merchant bank Hambros is disposing of its 75 per cent holding in Soilbourne, which owns the shares of Collett, Dickenson, Pearce International, the British advertising agency which Hambros acquired in 1979 for £3.9m.

Agreement has been reached in principle between Hambros and a company controlled by directors and senior executives of Collett, Dickenson, Pearce for the disposal of the Soilbourne stake which will pass to the company controlled by the Collett executives. A minority interest will be held by Young and Rubicam Inc., another leading advertising agency.

The company formed by the executives of Collett, Dickenson will acquire the holding for £1.9m and repay loans of £2.55m due to Hambros by Soilbourne. Hambros originally acquired its stake in Soilbourne in 1979 at a cost of £225,000.

Collett Dickenson Pearce said that it had been seeking ways in which to expand the scope of its activities and be able more easily to offer its clients fuller coverage internationally.

Both Hambros and the advertising agency hope to complete the deal by the end of August.

Hardanger Props.

Hardanger Properties has acquired two properties for a total of £780,000—the freehold of a retail property in Wigan and the freehold of the Old Crown House in Lichfield, Staffordshire. The Lichfield property, acquired for £450,000, is in a prime retail location.

Refurbishment of the Lichfield property will begin this summer.

The scheme has a completed development value in the region of £1.2m and the developers are in negotiation.

The Wigan property was acquired from Courtaulds Pension Fund and development will start this summer to provide a double unit of about 2,000 sq ft with first floor coverage. The cost of the acqusition was £230,000.

Hartley Cooper

Hartley Cooper, the British insurance broker, has been acquired by the Hongkong Bank Group in a deal which valued the broker at £6.5m. The purchase was made by Gibbs Insurance Holdings, whose ultimate insurance company is the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Hawley Group

Provincial Cleaning Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hawley Group, has agreed terms to acquire Oxford Building Services, based in Atlanta, Georgia. The maximum aggregate consideration is expected to be of the order of $9.1m.

Hawley Group, the largest element in Mr Michael Ashcroft's business empire, has further expanded its contract cleaning activities with the purchase of Derwent Cleaning and Maintenance (Kent) for £900,000.

Derwent, which cleans stores and supermarkets throughout the country from its base in Tonbridge, Kent, will become part of Hawley's Provincial Cleaning Services subsidiary.

Derwent made a pre-tax profit of £60,161 on turnover of £2.31m in the year ended August 31 1982. Net tangible assets amounted to £165,047 on that date.

Hawley expects Derwent to contribute about £180,000 a year in profits a year after integration into the group.

Hawley will make an initial payment of £750,000 comprising £300,000 in cash, the allotment of 123,457 ordinary Hawley shares and the issue of two unsecured loan notes of £100,000 and £150,000. It will pay the balance of £150,000 in December 1983 in cash or shares at Hawley's option provided turnover for the 26 weeks ending November 30 1983 is not less than £1.25m.

Hawley Group has also agreed with Mr J. G. Murray for the acquisition of 40 per cent of Security Corporation of America for an aggregate purchase consideration of $33m (£21,569,000). A minimum of $3m (£1,961,000) and a maximum of $6.175m (£4.036m) of the consideration will be satisfied by the issue of ordinary shares of Hawley, and the balance will be paid in cash on completion.

Hazlewoods Foods

Hazlewood Foods has unconditionally agreed to acquire the capital of G. Henshall and Son. Completion is expected to take place on June 27. Henshall, through its wholy owned subsidiary carries on business as manufacturer and processor of pickle products.

Capital is to be acquired for an aggregate of £1.083m payable as to £450,000 in cash on completion and balance to be satisfied by 136,088 ordinary shares of Hazlewoods. Audited book value of assets acquired as at March 31 was £744,445 and net profit before tax (excluding extra-ordinary item) for year to September 30, 1982, was £176,451 and for six months to March 31, 1983, was £156,264.

CE Heath purchase

C. E. Heath has purchased insurance broker W. Adams Group for cash.

Hicking Pentecost

The board of Hicking Pentecost says discussions have been taking place which might have led to an offer being made for the company.

These discussions have now been discontinued and the board do not expect an offer to be forthcoming.

Hongkong Rubber

The special resolution to place Hongkong (Selangor) Rubber into voluntary liquidation has been approved at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

After making provision for tax and other liabilities, the board has declared a first distribution in the liquidation of £5 per 10p share, payable July 7.

HK & Shanghai

AS PART of the expansion of its insurance broking interests, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has reached agreement with the board of Hartley Cooper Holdings on the terms of an offer to acquire the whole of the share capital, issued and to be issued of Hartley.

Hartley board recommend the offer. The proposed acquisition has received the approval of the committee of Lloyds.

Humphries Holdings

MOTION FILM processor and developer Technicolor (UK) has abandoned plans to bid for Humphries Holdings, the loss-making film company which is 75 per cent owned by British Electric Traction.

Technicolor, which is 70 per cent owned by Technicolor Inc. of the U.S., with Thorn EMI holding the other 30 per cent, had said six weeks previously that it was holding talks with Humphries which might lead to a bid.

Humphries has been seeking a suitor for some time. In January it revealed that it was holding talks with the Rank Organisation on a possible merger of its film laboratory interests. Discussions were stalled while the Office of Fair Trading deliberated on whether or not to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and never resumed, despite a green light from the OFT.

Humphries has suffered from video piracy, which has had a serious impact on the size of the overall market for film processing. From pre-tax profits of over £1m in 1980-81, the company revealed an interim loss of £56,000 for the first half of the present financial year.

I

ICI acquisition

ICI has acquired the assets of Photomasking Services of Warwick as one of the first steps in a new initiative in the electronics industry. The company is to be named IC Masks and will operate as an independent unit. A capital investment of approximately £2m is being made in new mask-making and quality control equipment, which will be installed and commissioned before the end of 1983.

It is ICI's intention to establish the company as a major UK manufacturer and supplier of high quality photomasks for producers of microchip integrated circuits in the UK and Western Europe.

I.O. Technology

Mr Philip Ramsbottom and Mr Ray Mackie, joint receivers and managers of I O Technology, have concluded the sale of the company to Foundrometers, an instrumentation manufacturer based in Leeds.

J

Maurice James

Maurice James Industries has agreed to acquire Roche Service Group. The terms are 93 ordinary of MJI for every 100 Roche ordinary.

The ordinary offer values Roche at approximately £1.9m, equivalent to approximately 28p per ordinary.

An offer will be made for the deferred ordinary capital of Roche which, with regard to the rights of the deferred ordinary, will be comparable to the ordinary offer.

Roche is an unlisted public company whose ordinary shares are dealt in under Rule 163 (2). It provides services in mechanical handling, plant hire and store fitting. As at December 31 1982 Roche had net tangible assets of £2m and pre tax profits for the year of £310,000.

Jenks and Cattell

Jenks and Cattell subsidiary J. and C. Tools and Engineering acquired certain assets and the whole of the business formerly caried on by T. and T. (Metal Products), a wholly owned subsidiary of London and Liverpool Trust.

T. and T. manufactures metal pressed components for the car industry. The consideration will be the book value of assets estimated to amount to £140,000.

Total sales of T. and T. for year to March 31 1983 were £533,000 and it recently obtained substantial orders to supply components for the BL Mastero. Future annual sales are expected to rise to between £750,000 and £1m.

K

KAE Group

London based business development consultancy, KAE Group, has made an agreed bid for IIS (International Information Services).

KAE, established in 1969, operates consultancy services in marketing, market research, pricing and trade research, new product development, acquisitions and joint ventures. IIS, founded by Mr Dennis Shearman in 1971, provides a quality control service throughout the drink companies.

Kleen-E-Ze

Kleen-E-Ze has agreed, in principle, to sell a substantial part of its wholly-owned subsidiary, College Laboratories, to Duraflex Housecrafts, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pillar Aluminium.

College distributes domestic draught excluders and related products. For the year to March 31 1982 losses stood at £83,000 before financing charges.

The consideration will amount to about £1m cash for stocks and goodwill and payments over the next five years which are expected to amount to £325,000.

L

Ladbroke Group

Ladbroke's U.S. property arm, London and Leeds Corporation has contracted to purchase the minority interest in its Royal Executive Park office development in Rye Brook, Westchester, New York, thereby giving L and L the full benefit of the development.

L and L has been the managing general partner of the Royal Executive Park since the land purchase in 1979.

Consideration for the acquisition of the limited partner's 44.75 per cent interest will be $2.849m cash, payable on closing on August 2 and a deferred payment of $913,265 due in August 1993, for which a 10-year loan note carrying interest at 10 per cent per annum will be issued by London and Leeds.

There will also be a further payment of up to $2,739,795 subject to the ultimate size of the development.

The Royal Executive Park covers 80 acres of land with zoning approval for 900,000 sq ft of rentable office accommodation in 10 buildings of equal size.

F.J.C. Lilley

F. J. C. Lilley has sold the capital of its subsidiary Millars Wellpoint International together with the premises occupied by Millars at Barnham, for an aggregate cash consideration of £152,000.

Lillywhite

The Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund has invested £425,000 of new capital as part of a rescue operation to take Lillywhite Frowd, the old-established sports goods distributor, out of the hands of the receivers. The pension fund has purchased 125,000 ordinary shares and has also subscribed for £100,000 of convertible stock and £200,000 of loan stock.

Linfood

At a cost of £1.5m, Linfood Holdings has purchase a group of eight supermarkets in and around Doncaster from members of the Round family.

The eight stores were owned by Modern Foodmarkets (Holdings), Modern Foodmarkets, Rairway Foodpackers, Rairway Wholesale Machinery and Harware Company, which are together owned by five members of the Round family.

The supermarkets, which operate under the name Rairway, are being incorporated into Linfood's Gateway Foodmarkets chain.

Linread

Linread has agreed to sell wholly-owned subsidiary Linread-Fabco to SFS Group of Switzerland for some £1.5m, subject to shareholders' approval and to the trustees releasing Fabco as a charging subsidiary in respect of the 7¾ per cent debenture stock 1989/93.

London & Overseas

London & Overseas Freighters has sold the 255,090 dwt tanker London Pride for U.S.$4.26m cash (£2.8m equivalent) and has purchased, for a nominal consideration, the outstanding 50 per cent interest in LOF (Jersey) which accordingly becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary.

After repaying the related loan and disbursing expenses in connection with the sale (including delivery costs of £725,000) it is estimated that group cash resources will be augmented by £1.15m.

Lonrho

Lonrho, the largest shareholder in House of Fraser, was frustrated in its attempts to demerge Fraser's main store Harrods of Knightsbridge from the rest of the Fraser empire.

Although Lonrho gained support for its ordinary resolution relating to the demerger of the Harrods store at an extraordinary general meeting on June 30 the resolution had no effect. A special resolution, requiring 75 per cent of the votes cast, which would have altered the articles of association as a prerequisite for a demerger of Harrods, did not gain sufficient votes.

The votes cast in favour of the special resolution were 67.5m while 64.05m were cast against. Lonrho's ordinary resolution was carried by 4.73m votes. On the ordinary resolution 68.1m votes were cast in favour while 63.4m were cast against.

Tanzania agreed to pay Lonrho 121.5m Tanzanian shillings (£6.7m) in compensation for assets it appropriated five years ago. Earlier Lonrho had demanded $30m for the assets and Tanzania had offered $2m.

M

Marsh & McLennan

C. T. Bowring and Co., a Marsh and McLennan subsidiary, has entered into an agreement for the sale of English and American Insurance Company, with J. W. Ramplin and P. D. Evans and certain other senior executives of English and American and with the Providence Capitol International Insurance group of companies.

Under the agreement, completion of which is conditional inter alia, on the approval of the Department of Trade and on confirmation by the Office of Fair Trading that the Secretary of State for Trade does not intend to refer the acquisition to the Moopolies and Mergers Commission, Bowring will receive £10m in cash.

The agreement provides that the joint purchasers will procure that the net tangible assets of English and American will be increased to £12.5m on completion.

Mersey Docks

Mersey Docks and Harbour Company reported on May 31 1982 that discussions were taking place with the Alliance Assurance Company on a possible solution to the legal problem relating to the interpretation of the loan stock deed.

Discussions have been satisfactorily concluded and a redemption payment of 19p per £1 unit of loan stock will be made on September 26 to those on the register on August 12.

Metcalfe Caldwell

The business and assets of Metcalfe Caldwell, the financial and security printer, has been purchased by a new company which has been set-up for this purpose headed by Mr Donald Davis, the former group managing director of Pitman.

Finance for the acquisition was arranged with Candover Investments.

Minster Agriculture

Minster Agriculture, the British Consultancy specialising in international agriculture and agro-industry development, has been purchased by way of a management buy-out. The company had been owned by Guthrie Corporation.

Minster Agriculture will henceforward be owned and managed by its professional staff and independent external shareholders.

N

Nationwide Leisure

Nationwide Leisure has exchanged contracts for the acquisition, subject to shareholders' approval, of all the ordinary shares in Neilson Leisure Group for up to £2.5m to be satisfied as follows:

An initial payment of £600,000 in cash on completion, when net assets of Neilson's are estimated to be not less than £400,000 and;

Further payment of up to £1.9m by the issue of tranches of loan stock and ordinary shares dependent on the achievement of profit targets from 1983 to 1985.

Neilson's is based in Leicester, and is a coach and air charter holiday operator primarily to Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy. They are number two to Thomson in winter sports holidays and leading operators in the summer lakes and mountains holiday market.

To facilitate current expansion plans of Neilsons, Nationwide has agreed to make available a secured advance of £500,000 until completion of the acquisition.

No probes

The following proposed mergers will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission: Barton Group/Caparo Group; Gallaher/Scott and Sons; Montefibre UK/certain assets of Monsanto; Ruberoid/Camrex (Holdings); Lex Service/Jermyn Holdings; Rowntree Mackintosh/Tom's Foods; Friends' Provident Life Office Regional Properties. B & A Engineering Company/Weighload; Senior Engineering Group / Green's Economiser Group; Yorkshire & Lancashire Investment Trust/Young Companies Investment Trust; London & Northern Group/United Medical Enterprises; and Delanair/vehicle heater company of Smiths Industries.

Also ESAB AB/BOC group's UK welding division.

Northern Goldsmiths

On July 4 Northern Goldsmiths agreed to acquire the whole of the business of Sidney Napper, Slough, for £325,000.

W. E. Norton

W. E. Norton has entered into a conditional agreement for the acquisition of Surety Security Services based in Leeds and engaged in the installation of intruder alarms and other security equipment, for a consideration expected to amount to £400,000.

Of the total £300,000 will be paid in cash and the balance will be satisfied by the issue of new ordinary shares of 1p at the market price as at completion or 38p per share whichever is the lower.

W. E. Norton (Holdings) has also acquired Automatic Alarm Systems (Manchester). Automatic Alarm is engaged in the installation of alarm systems in the Greater Manchester area.

W. E. Norton Holdings has agreed to acquire Barbican Lock and Safe Company for cash.

O

Olympus/SupaSports

British Shoe Corporation, a subsidiary of Sears Holdings, says its subsidiary, Olympus Sportswear, has agreed terms with C. and J. Clark for the acquisition of Clark's retail sports division which operates under the name SupaSports.

The division consists of 19 retail outlets, mainly situated in the South-East of England, which sell a wide range of sportswear and equipment.

Olympus intends to develop the SupaSports chain in parallel with its existing Olympus Sports' leisure and sports division which presently has 70 retail outlets, including its highly successful flagship store in London's Oxford Street.

P

Park Place

Park Place Investment Acquisition has entered into an agreement to purchase the whole of the issued share capital of Wayland (publishers) from Iridant Group Printers and other subsidiaries of British Electric Traction. Total consideration is £1,282,332, which will be satisfied by 847,228 new ordinary shares.

Pentos disposal

Pentos has sold the whole issued share capital of World International Publishing to Egmont, a UK subsidiary of Gutenberghus, the Danish international publishing group.

Total consideration is £1.61m being £10,000 for the shares in World International, based on the net asset value of the reorganised balance-sheet as at December 31 1982, together with reimbursement of total borrowings amounting to £1.6m.

Prestwich Parker

Prestwich Parker has acquired the business and trading assets of Pemberton Fasteners from the receiver for a total consideration not exceeding £103,000.

Pemberton's turnover for the years ended April 30, 1982 and 1983 amounted to approximately £900,000 and £750,000 respectively.

Pleasurama

Pleasurama has signed a contract with De Vere Hotels and Restaurants to acquire the freehold property known as 1a Palace Gate, Kensington, London, W.

The premises are occupied by Maxims, with the casino owned and operated by Pleasurama. The consideration total amounted to £950,000 and is being satisfied by the issue of 294,571 ordinary shares fully paid of 5p each. These shares have been placed by Laurie, Milbank and Co. on behalf of De Vere Hotels and Restaurants with a number of institutions.

R

Rank in U.S.

Rank Industries America, a subsidiary of Rank Organisation, has exercised its option to purchase 1.38m shares of Telecom Plus International for $18.4m. This brings Rank's ownership of Telecom Plus to about 30.5 per cent.

Resource Technology

Resource Technology has agreed terms for the purchase from a consortium of institutional investors and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, of Underwater Trials (UTL). The consideration is £210,000 plus the issue by a wholly-owned subsidiary of RT, of £120,000 in nominal amount of 3 per cent (net) redeemable preference shares 1999 of £1 each.

UTL operates comprehensive trials and evaluation facilities for subsea instrumentation, equipment and materials for the offshore industry.

RIT and Northern

Through a wholly owned subsidiary, RIT and Northern has exercised the option to become a general partner, with a 25 per cent interest, in L. F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin for US$33.5m.

On January 1 last the subsidiary subscribed to a $25m eight-year subordinated loan note at 14.4 per cent and a $5m limited partnership interest, which together, at the option of the RIT group, may be converted into a further 25 per cent general partnership interest.

The board proposes to exercise this conversion right with effect from October 1, 1983.

Continued on next page

S. Pearson £6m agreed offer for Warne

S. Pearson and Son has made a recommended offer for all the issued shares of Frederick Warne, on behalf of its subsidiary the Penguin Publishing Company. Warne, the publisher of Beatrix Potter, is an unlisted public company.

Shareholders owning 489,525 ordinary £1 shares of Warne (58.84 per cent of the issued shares) have irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer.

The proposed offer, which was unanimously recommended by the Warne board was 725p in cash for each ordinary share of Warne or, as an alternative, one ordinary share of 25p in Pearsons and £3.93 nominal of loan notes 1988 of Pearsons. The alternative consideration was worth 725p for each Warne ordinary, based on a price of 332p per Pearsons ordinary (the middle market quotation as shown by the Stock Exchange official list on July 8) and a value of par for the loan notes 1988.

The offer values Warne at £6m. The existing business of Warne had pre-tax profits of £297,454 for 1982 and net tangible assets of £2,597,814 as at that date.

Warne was established in 1865 and is best known as the publisher of Beatrix Potter (whose copyrights it owns) and the Observer books. Penguin sees not only a community of interest in the publishing programme of Warne, but also opportunities for growth in the Penguin and Puffin lists.

The copyrights owned by Warne may provide opportunities for developments in the entertainment and leisure businesses of Pearsons as well as offering new opportunities to Penguin.

The loan notes 1988 of Pearsons will carry interest at the six-month London interbank offered rate, payable half-yearly on June 30 and December 31 in each year, and will be redeemed at par on December 31 1988; holders will be entitled to require repayment at par earlier at quarterly intervals.

Camco Inc, a subsidiary of S. Pearson and Son, has acquired Safety Technology and Oilfield Protectors Inc, based at Lafayette, Louisiana in the U.S.

The acquisition will expand Camco's line of high quality equipment and services to the energy industries.

The acquisition of Cedar Point Inc, by a private limited partnership including affiliates of S. Pearson, Lazard Freres and Co., Mr Robert Munger and other members of management and the Prudential Insurance Company of America, has been approved by shareholders of Cedar Point at a special meeting convened in Cleveland, Ohio.

The acquisition price is $40 a share in cash and the major portion of the $149m aggregate cost of the transaction is being provided in the form of loans from a group of banks and long-term fixed rate debt from Prudential.

The debt finance will be repaid out of the cash flow of Cedar Fair, the acquiring partnership, and the lenders will have no recourse beyond the partnership's assets.

Pearson indirectly owns 25 per cent of Cedar Point and accordingly will receive some $35.9m, which compares with the aggregate cost of its holding of some $29.6m.

Under the terms of an agreement dated October 16, 1974, Carbonisation Entreprise et Ceramique SA (CEC), a subsidiary of Lafarge Coppee SA, has purchased the shares in Allia Doulton SA owned by S. Pearson & Son.

These shares represent 33 per cent of the issued capital of Allia Doulton and the consideration is FFr 73.78m, payable with interest in three equal annual instalments, the first in November 1983.

Allia Doulton has therefore become a wholly-owned subsidiary of CEC and its name will be changed to Allia SA. In the UK, Allia Doulton (Bathrooms) will become Allia (UK). This company, currently trading as Doulton Bathrooms and utilising the Royal Doulton insignia, will trade simply as Royal Bathrooms.

INDICES AND YIELDS

June 1983	FT Indust. Ordinary Index	FT Indust. Ordinary Div. yield	Govt. Secs. Index	Gold Mines Index	FT-Actuaries All-Shr. Index	FT-Actuaries All-Shr. Div. yield
1	704.6	4.58	82.17	590.7	434.00	4.78
2	698.7	4.63	82.55	592.7	432.25	4.81
3	698.4	4.62	82.34	625.2	432.69	4.81
6	703.4	4.58	82.77	620.1	436.50	4.77
7	710.3	4.55	82.56	592.0	438.84	4.74
8	714.7	4.52	82.28	585.9	442.25	4.71
9	716.4	4.50	82.62	602.9	443.84	4.68
10	717.1	4.49	82.91	625.2	443.87	4.68
13	721.3	4.44	83.60	628.8	445.84	4.67
14	724.7	4.41	83.27	641.0	449.12	4.63
15	715.5	4.46	83.00	633.7	445.27	4.67
16	715.7	4.45	83.08	634.6	447.42	4.65
17	714.1	4.46	82.87	661.0	449.51	4.63
20	727.8	4.39	82.43	648.9	455.21	4.57
21	731.4	4.36	82.02	657.7	458.65	4.54
22	721.1	4.41	82.15	665.3	455.99	4.57
23	724.9	4.39	82.36	661.0	457.52	4.55
24	726.1	4.39	82.30	672.3	460.28	4.53
27	725.7	4.39	82.37	678.7	460.81	4.53
28	719.6	4.43	82.02	656.7	457.23	4.57
29	713.9	4.48	81.94	646.9	455.00	4.60
30	720.7	4.44	82.07	645.4	458.91	4.56

July 1983	FT Indust. Ordinary Index	FT Indust. Ordinary Div. yield	Govt. Secs. Index	Gold Mines Index	FT-Actuaries All-Shr. Index	FT-Actuaries All-Shr. Div. yield
1	709.8	4.51	82.13	650.3	455.22	4.59
4	701.8	4.55	81.60	642.8	449.91	4.65
5	691.8	4.62	81.08	629.0	446.33	4.69
6	696.6	4.59	80.48	617.2	446.44	4.69
7	691.0	4.62	80.33	623.4	443.77	4.73
8	683.9	4.67	80.04	649.8	437.00	4.80
11	678.5	4.72	79.84	659.2	434.27	4.83
12	682.1	4.69	79.97	674.5	435.50	4.81
13	676.9	4.74	80.00	664.6	431.39	4.87
14	688.2	4.64	80.61	655.7	436.29	4.82
15	683.6	4.71	80.08	647.1	435.47	4.83
18	688.5	4.68	80.32	647.4	436.72	4.82
19	699.7	4.61	80.32	648.6	441.09	4.77
20	704.4	4.59	80.45	657.9	445.21	4.73
21	710.9	4.53	80.41	669.4	450.06	4.67
22	706.8	4.56	80.08	660.6	447.82	4.70
25	700.9	4.60	79.49	654.8	444.51	4.73
26	708.9	4.54	79.69	658.5	447.80	4.70
27	719.0	4.47	79.36	664.8	450.97	4.67
28	721.4	4.45	79.16	661.6	451.03	4.67
29	711.2	4.52	78.99	656.0	445.97	4.73

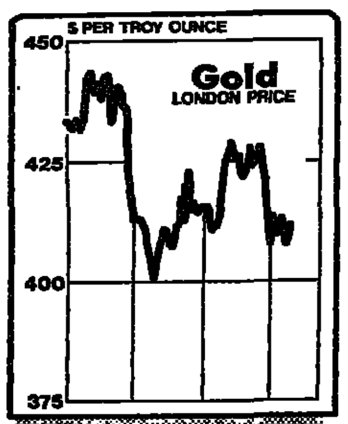
FINANCIAL NEWS

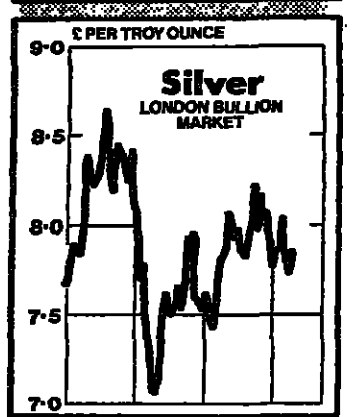
June 1–August 8

CROP SETBACKS COMBINE WITH PAYMENT-IN-KIND PROGRAMME

Weather spurs commodity prices to three-year high

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR





THE WEATHER has been the main influence driving the Financial Times Commodity Index during the past two months up to the highest level since April 1980. At the beginning of June the index (1952=100) stood at 264.64; by the end of last week it reached a peak of 289.71.

All the 12 commodities used in the index rose during the past two months. But the biggest increases came for "soft" (non-metal) commodities, especially grain crops and cocoa.

Prolonged spells of very hot temperatures in the U.S. have drastically affected the forthcoming maize (corn), soyabeans and cotton crops there.

The crop setbacks coincide with the U.S. Government's payment-in-kind programme aimed at reducing surplus supplies by persuading farmers to reduce their plantings considerably. The net result is likely to be a big cut in the massive surplus supplies in the U.S. which were such a depressing influence over prices.

At the same time poor weather in Europe is expected to bring lower harvests and drought has hit the South African maize crop badly. However the Soviet Union is expected to have a much bigger harvest of over 200m tonnes, after four years of poor harvests.

In the meantime the Soviet Union and the U.S. have signed a new five-year grains agreement, to replace the existing pact that expires on September 30. Under the new agreement the Soviet Union is pledged to buy a minimum of 9m tonnes of grain (split between wheat and maize) annually.

This compares with a minimum of 6m tonnes under the previous agreement, but soyabeans are included for the first time. The Russians are allowed to buy 500,000 tonnes, which count as the equivalent of 1m tonnes of grain, and they have already moved in as buyers swiftly helping to push prices of soyabeans, meal and oil.

> A probable cut in the world's huge sugar surplus may clear the way to a more effective international agreement

The most spectacular price fluctuations during the past two months have been in the cocoa market. Poor weather in West Africa, the main world cocoa producing area, is threatening to reduce crops there substantially with political problems an additional factor in Ghana.

Even though Brazil is expected to produce a bigger crop, total world production this season is forecast to be 105,000 tonnes below consumption—the first deficit for five years. However doubts about whether the crop in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer, will be as bad as feared have encouraged constant bouts of speculative profit-taking, so prices have shown violent fluctuations.

The threat of frost in Brazil has kept coffee prices at a high level, although the danger period (from mid-June to mid-August) is now nearly over. The market is expected to mark time until the next meeting of the International Coffee Agreement next month when export quotas, which have also helped keep prices up, will be negotiated for the forthcoming season.

World sugar prices, which are not included in the FT index, have been largely influenced by the weather. The long dry spell in Europe, following the excessive rain that cut plantings earlier in the year is expected to bring a big reduction in the EEC beet crop. At the same time bad weather has hit cane crops in many important producing areas, including Australia, Cuba, Philippines, South Africa and Thailand.

So the huge surplus of sugar overhanging the world market is likely to be significantly reduced, possibly clearing the way for the negotiation of a more positive, and effective, International Sugar Agreement by the end of the year.

Reduced supplies, and improved demand, have boosted prices of natural rubber and wool. Rubber prices, in particular, have moved appreciably higher. But they have now reached the level where the buffer stock of the International Natural Rubber Agreement can start selling back into the market some of 250,000 tonnes bought previously to stop values falling too low. Signs of the continuing recovery in the U.S. economy, and the strong dollar helped give a firm undertone to base metal prices on the London Metal Exchange.

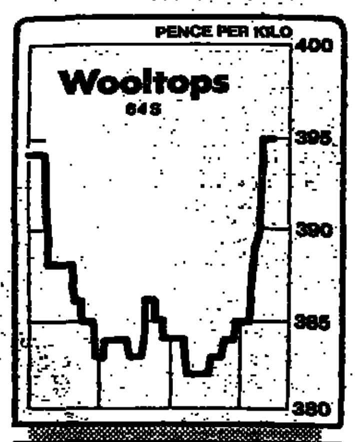
> U.S. copper producers have been forced to rescind earlier domestic price increases, despite strikes at major plants

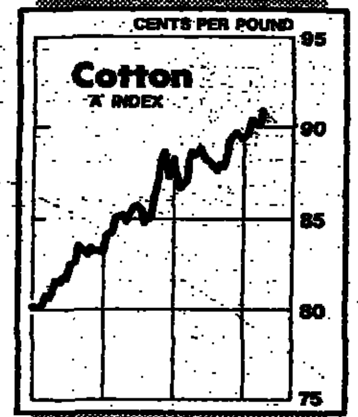
Aluminium prices on the LME moved to record levels, and there was a strong surge in the zinc market, following rises in U.S. domestic prices that triggered off similar increases in Europe. Lead, too, was helped by a rise in U.S. prices, although depressed by West Germany's decision to speed up the introduction of lead-free petrol.

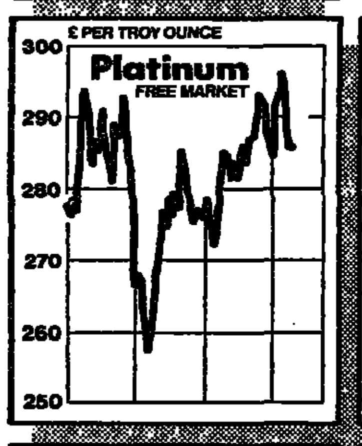
Copper was initially encouraged by a sharp reduction in the stocks held in the LME warehouses, which fell by some 80,000 tonnes as the Chinese took delivery of some forward purchases made several months ago. However, stocks have started to rise again, with reports that the Chinese are re-selling a large proportion of the remaining forward purchases outstanding. Sentiment has been hit too by U.S. producers being forced to rescind earlier domestic price increases, in spite of strikes at three major copper producing plants over the failure to negotiate new labour contracts.

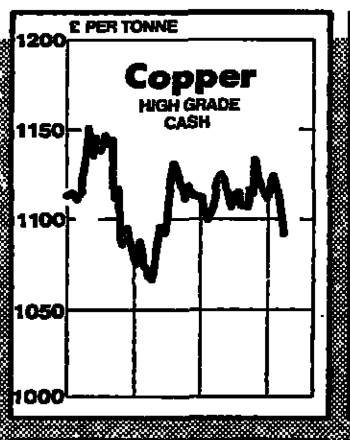
All metals have been depressed recently by the rise in U.S. interest rates and the decline in gold. But this has been offset to a large extent in London by the weakness of sterling against the dollar, which means that sterling prices have to be adjusted upwards to stay in line.

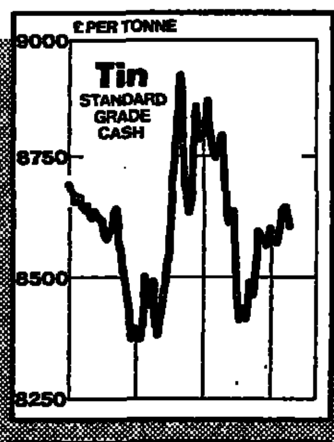
Tin values in London, for example, have risen in spite of the fact that the Straits tin prices in Penang, Malaysia, remain at a low level close to the "floor" of the International Tin Agreement. Should the tin agreement collapse, there is the newly formed Tin Producers Association (known as Tinpec) which may be used as a producer cartel to try to control the market.

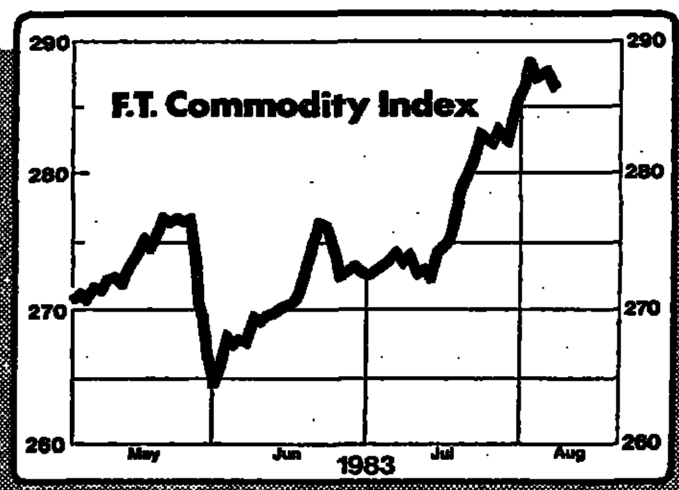


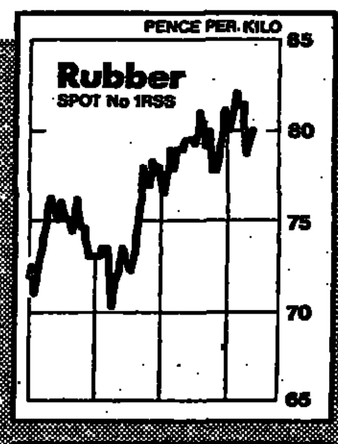


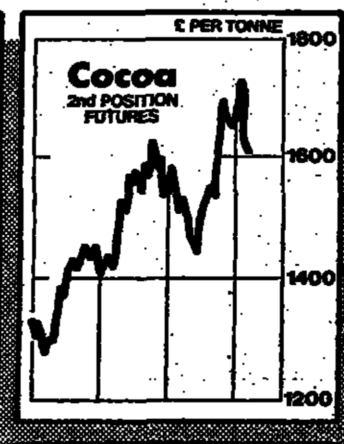


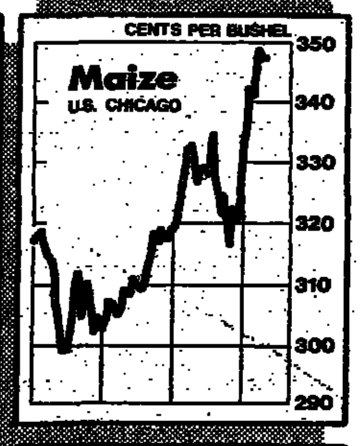


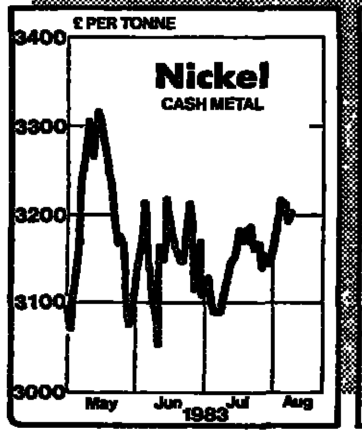


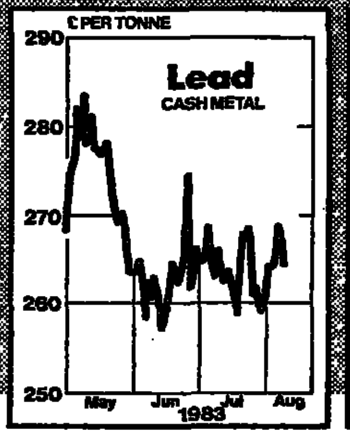


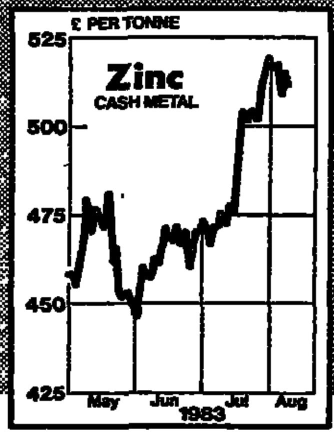


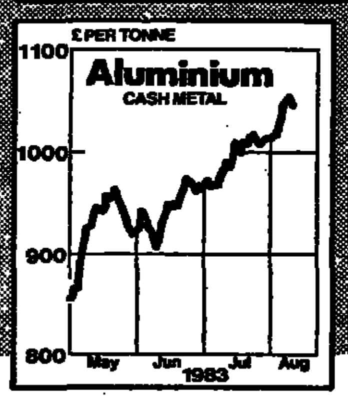


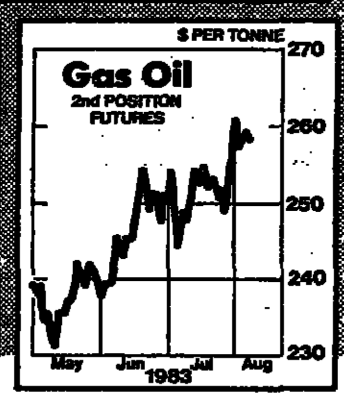


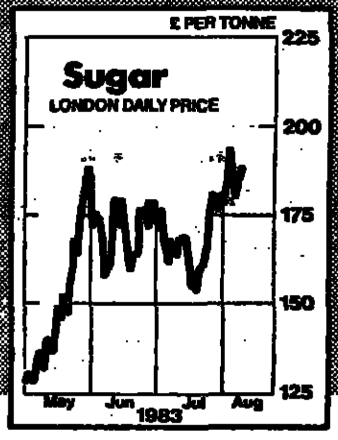


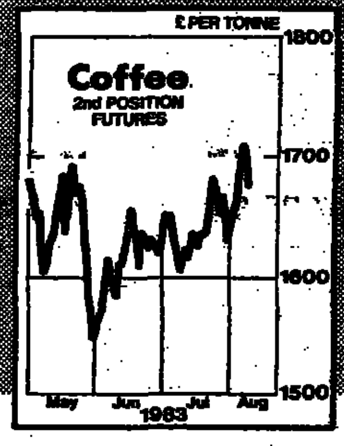


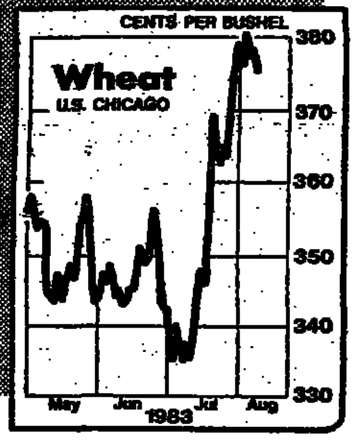












BIDS AND DEALS

Continued

R. Westgarth

Richardson Westgarth has sold its wholly-owned subsidiary S. P. Gears to the company's management. Terms involve the sale of the issued share capital of S. P. Gears, an assignment of inter-company loans due to RW, and a reduction of RW's group indebtedness to its bankers of approximately £200,000.

Rotork

Rotork has acquired Pneu-Hydraulics (P-H) and its subsidiaries based in Cambridgeshire. The prinicpal activity of P-H is the design, development and manufacture of specialist hoses and cables for underwater and diving applications.

The initial consideration of £2.25m has been satisfied by £0.95m in cash and £1.3m, 9½ per cent loan notes maturing on July 31, 1985. A deferred consideration of £0.5m will be paid if pre-tax profits for the year to February 29, 1984 exceed an agreed level.

Royal Worcester

Agreement has been reached for Royal Worcester's wholly-owned subsidiary Welwyn Electronics, to purchase 65 per cent of a private company, Modex Automation for $394,000 with the option to purchase the balance between December 31 1987 and December 31 2000. Modex manufactures time delays, temperature controllers and indicators and a range of generator speed frequency and voltage monitors.

Rugby Cement

Rugby Portland Cement has purchased a one-third interest in RC Cement Company of the U.S., at a cost of some $21.5m. The other two-thirds interest is held by IFINT SA and Unicem SpA, who hold similar interests in Rugby Cement's other American associates.

RC Cement is a holding company, having one subsidiary, River Cement, which operates a cement plant at Selma, Missouri.

In a depressed 1982 RC Cement Company Inc suffered a net loss before tax of $1.07m (one-third interest $0.36m) and at that date the net book value of its assets was $47.7m (one-third interest $15.9m).

This acquisition provides the group with an interest in a major dry-process cement plant strategically situated on the Mississippi river system and selling in the important sunbelt area of the U.S., where above-average economic growth is expected to occur.

L. Ryan Holdings

L. Ryan Holdings (to become Ryan International) has purchased Aluminium RW Supplies. Consideration is £394,000 cash, of which £354,000 is payable on completion of the sale agreement and £40,000 is payable in instalments of £20,000 per year in the second and third years after the date of completion.

Net assets of Aluminium RW Supplies at December 31 1982 were £167,519. Net profit for that year attributable to the assets being acquired before tax and extraordinary items was £121,556.

S

Saatchi & Saatchi

Saatchi & Saatchi Company has acquired 100 per cent of New York advertising agency, McCaffrey & McCall Inc. McCaffrey's billings for 1982 were approximately $140m and pre-tax profits were a record $3.59m.

McCaffrey has a solid financial position. At December 31 1982 the net tangible assets being acquired had a book value of $6.8m, while McCaffrey had available net cash of $6.2m and no debt. In addition, McCaffrey's leasehold interest in its premises has recently been professionally valued, giving rise to surplus of $4.8m.

On completion, Saatchi will make a cash payment of $10m. Additional cash payments may be made in 1984 and 1985 of up to a total of $5m, contingent on the performance of McCaffrey based on post-tax profits in 1983 and 1984. A further payment may be made in 1986 to bring the total consideration up to 10 times the average post-tax profits of McCaffrey of the best two years of 1983, 1984 and 1985. The acquisition of McCaffrey will be financed out of the company's existing resources.

Sangers issue

Wholesaling chemist, Sangers (Northern Ireland), a subsidiary of Sangers has made a public offer for sale of £1m ordinary £1 shares at par together with £250,000 unsecured 15 per cent loan stock (1991) at par.

The whole of Sangers wholesale chemist operation is now conducted in Northern Ireland, where the company controls 28 per cent of the ethical pharmaceuticals market and more than 70 per cent of its customers are independent chemists. During the last five years the business grew from sales of £8.5m to top £14m with average pre-tax profits of more than £200,000.

Silvermines

Silvermines has acquired a 10 per cent holding in Falcon Resources. Falcon has just completed a private placing of 7.5m ordinary 20p shares at 25p per share. Silvermines obtained its stake for a consideration of £250,000.

Falcon's shares are not quoted on any Stock Exchange, but the directors expect to apply for a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market within the next 12 months.

Stewart Nairn

Stewart Nairn has agreed with Gulf Petroleum Products Company (GPPC) subject to shareholders approval to acquire 40 per cent of the beneficial interest in the freehold of 9/15 Sackville Street, London for £4.4m to be satisfied by the issue of 8m new ordinary shares.

GPPC will continue to own the remaining 60 per cent interest in the property.

GPPC has undertaken to pay all the remaining costs of the refurbishment which is expected to be completed by October 1983. Stewart Nairn will continue to act as project manager for the refurbishment.

Strikes Restaurants

Strikes Restaurants has exchanged contracts for the acquisition from Provincial Leisure of two restaurants trading under the name of Heroes in London W1 and Kingston-on-Thames respectively.

The purchase includes a small franchise operation with one unit in Reading which is intended to be marketed jointly in due course, with the Strikes franchise operation.

The total consideration is £220,450 represented by £125,450 cash and 146,154 ordinary 10p shares, 46,154 of which are being retained by the vendors as a long-term holding, the balance having been placed.

T

Tace disposal

Tace has exchanged contracts for the sale of its 89 per cent interest in the capital of Weighload to B & A Engineering Company for approximately £100,000 cash. Weighload manufactures crane overload protection devices.

The price will be an amount equal to the audited consolidated net tangible assets of Weighload as at March 31, 1983 attributable to Tace's shareholding plus £89,000. At September 30, 1982 (the date of the last audited accounts), such assets were £515,000 and they are expected to be materially the same at March 31, 1983. The pre-tax profits attributable to Tace's interest in Weighload for the year ended September 30, 1982 were £46,000.

The proceeds of sale, which will be used initially to reduce group borrowings, will in the longer term assist Tace in developing its interests in higher technology engineering.

Teakspire

David Quayle and Associates has acquired from Teakspire control of Royal Stafford China and reorganisation has been made within the board of that company.

With the new arrangements comes additional finance which will allow for full production of the award winning Ambassador bone china hotelware range and provide greater working capital.

Thorn EMI

Glover and Main, a subsidiary of Thorn EMI, has sold Martin-Thomas to a newly established company, Andover Group. The consideration is some £1.45m which has been paid in cash, and which includes the repayment of loans to a Glover and Main subsidiary.

Martin-Thomas makes and sells mobile aluminium staging, steps, and materials handling equipment for use in the aviation, building and civil engineering industries.

Thorn EMI has also acquired Hazmac (Handling) to establish a UK base from which to develop internationally its industrial robotics business. The consideration of £730,000 was satisfied by the issue of 121,062 fully paid Thorn EMI ordinary shares.

TI Group

TI Group has exchanged contracts with the receivers of Alfred Herbert for the acquisition of the Herbert range of CNC lathes and the Herbert spares operation and associated stock for £850,000 cash.

Arrangements have been made for the receivers' stock of finished Herbert CNC lathes to be sold through TI.

TI has also acquired, through its subsidiary, TI International Holdings, the Spanish company, AP Amortiguadores SA, from Questor Corporation of the U.S., for £4.2m cash.

AP Amortiguadores, which has assets of £4.2m and made pre-tax profits in 1982 of £0.4m, makes and sells original equipment and replacement parts for automobile suspension systems.

Tozer Kemsley

Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn has sold its subsidiary, Laser Transport International, based at Ashford Airport, Kent, to two of Laser's directors, Mr John Smith and Mr Roger Arnold.

The two directors, together with the Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation, formed a new company, Lorstock, which paid Tozer £150,000 together with the repayment of a loan of £100,000 for Laser Transport.

Turnbull Scott

Turnbull Scott Holdings has agreed to purchase Securikey for £1m, to be satisfied by £100 cash and the issue to the vendor of £999,900 9 per cent loan stock 1990 drawn on TSH and secured by a bank guarantee. No application will be made for listing of this loan stock.

Securikey distributes safes, key cabinets and ancillary equipment in the UK. For the year to August 31 1982, turnover was £574,000, pre-tax profits £50,000 and net assets £97,000. TSH is confident that this acquisition provides an excellent opportunity for diversification from shipping.

U

Unicom News

Commodity News Services, a subsidiary of the U.S. communications company Knight-Ridder Newspapers Inc, has acquired the UPI portion of Unicom News, the London based commodity and economic information company.

Unigroup sale

Unigroup has sold its subsidiary, Leisurewear International, to John Stead. It has received £25,100 in cash and has agreed to forgo £158,241 of debts due by Leisurewear.

In the year to July 3 1982 Leisurewear lost £73,135 and had at that date a negative net worth of £33,339. The transaction involves a net write-off by Unigroup of approximately £61,500.

Union International

The Union International and the Thornhill family have agreed to merge the poultry interests of J. Thornhill and Sons, Country Produce and Churchstoke Hatchery with effect from July 2, 1983.

J. Thornhill and Sons will become a subsidiary of the Union International, and the Thornhill family will continue to retain their interest in the company. The chairman will be Mr John Thornhill, the deputy chairman will be Mr David Naish, and Mr Charles Tweedie, currently chief executive of Country Produce, is to be appointed managing director. The principal trading company will be known as Thornhill Produce.

Unitech

Unitech has reached agreement in principle with Standard Telephones and Cables for the sale of the whole of the issued share capital of Celdis and Celdis S.A. The purchase consideration will be based upon the net assets of the companies as at May 28, 1983 plus a premium for goodwill.

The combined turnover of the companies for the 12 months ended May 28, 1983 was some £9m.

United Medical

The state-owned British Technology Group sold its controlling stake in United Medical Enterprises to London and Northern Group, the builder and civil engineer. The initial consideration is about £25m which will cover BTG's 65.7 per cent holding and the minority stakes controlled by United City Merchants, Commercial Union Assurance, Orion Royal Bank and UME's directors.

The consideration may rise to a maximum of £28m depending on a valuation of UME in 1987. L and N has funded the acquisition through a one-for-two rights issue at 57½p to raise £15.54m net. The balance will be paid from L and N's own resources.

United Newspapers

United Newspapers has agreed to buy the Ackrill group of newspapers—paid weeklies and freesheets—published at Harrogate and circulating in North Yorkshire and Durham.

The group includes the Harrogate Advertiser and almost a dozen associate newspaper titles covering Knaresborough, Ripon, Pateley Bridge, Wetherby and other areas with aggregate weekly sales exceeding 30,000.

The purchase price will be related to profits for the 12 months to September 30 1983 with a ceiling of £4m.

V

Vinten Group

Vinten Group has acquired all the issued shares of Trivector Scientific, Trivector Commerce and Trivector Systems International for an aggregate consideration of £1.73m.

It has also acquired the business and certain assets of Spectron Optical Holdings and of four of its subsidiaries: Spectron Optics, Spectron Optical Coatings, Spectron Instruments and Spectron Developments, for an aggregate consideration of £450,000.

W

Wearwell/Inter-City

Wearwell has reached agreement to take a controlling interest in Inter-City Investment Group. Inter-City is proposing to raise approximately £1.87m by way of a rights issue on a one-for-two basis at 20p a share in order to repay certain outstanding loans and to provide additional working capital.

As at end-June 1983 Wearwell was the major trade creditor of Inter-City and was owed some £2.3m for supplies. It is proposed that £1.87m of its outstanding indebtedness should be capitalised into 9.35m ordinary shares which together with the 10,000 already owned would result in Wearwell owning 50.12 per cent on Inter-City's enlarged share capital.

For the year to end-December 1982 Inter-City incurred a pre-tax loss of £868,000 (£1.34m) on turnover of £5.99m (£7.84m)—the company's principal activities are importing and distributing clothing. Wearwell manufactures and exports clothing.

W. Mids. Envelopes

Directors have agreed to buy from BPM Holdings its wholly-owned subsidiary, West Midlands Envelopes. Assets to be acquired have a net book value of £870,000 and produced a net profit before tax in the year ended July 3 1982 of £191,559.

Consideration is £828,750, to be realised through the issue of BPM of 425,000 Chapman ordinary shares at 195p per share. This will bring BPM's shareholding in Chapman to 15 per cent.

Wiggins Group

Wiggins Group has exchanged conditional contracts for the acquisition of Gudgeon Construction and Wessex Builders Guild. Completion of the contracts is conditional on the approval of Wiggins shareholders.

The consideration for the acquisition of Construction and Wessex is £4.08m of which £3.95m will be settled on completion, which is due to take place on August 30 following an extraordinary meeting.

Y

Yorks. and Lancs.

Yorkshire and Lancashire Investment Trust says the offer to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of YCIT has been declared unconditional as to acceptances and will remain open for acceptances until further notice.

Acceptances of the offer have been received in respect of 6,499,411 YCIT ordinary shares (91.22 per cent). Prior to the announcement of the offer on June 20 1983, Y & L owned 356,000 YCIT ordinary shares (4.99 per cent); it has not acquired, or agreed to acquire, any YCIT ordinary shares since that date other than pursuant to the offer.

Y & L's interest in YCIT, including acceptances received under the offer, amounts to 6,855,411 ordinary (96.21 per cent).

Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for admission to the official list of the new Y & L ordinary shares, Y & L warrants and Y & L debenture stock.